Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-224 *21 November 1994*

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'Text' of Document on EU-Latin American Ties

PY19?1004494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Nov 94 p C2

["Text" of the "Basic Document on the Relationship of the European Union with Latin America and the Caribbean"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The European Union [EU] member countries and peoples share many common historical, spiritual, and cultural ties with Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the values and ideals of liberty, solidarity, universal human rights, and a state of law.

The success of Latin American and Caribbean efforts to attain peace, democracy, and sustainable development has strengthened their role in the international community at a time when Europe is striving for its unity.

Within the framework of our foreign policy and common security, we propose to act jointly with Latin America and the Caribbean to promote greater cooperation between the two regions in order to maintain peace, safeguard universal respect for human rights, increase fair economic exchange, fight poverty and the deterioration of the environment, and tighten scientific and cultural ties.

2. We pay tribute to and applaud the efforts undertaken in the region to consolidate representative democracy and the state of law, modernize the institutions, improve public moral standards, open up and integrate the economies, and promote social justice. If so desired we are willing to contribute with our advice and experience and, if necessary, with our aid.

3. Respect for human rights and basic liberties, as well as the participation by all citizens in their political future and in the economic and social progress of their countries, are vital for peaceful development at a national as well as international level.

Consequently, we condemn any violation of human rights and request the punishment of those responsible for doing so. A determined attitude and the efficient administration of justice are necessary to prevent cases of violation of human rights from going unpunished.

4. The armed forces' subordination to civilian authorities is necessary for the domestic stability of every nation, its participation in international cooperation, and for the consolidation of peace in the region.

We endorse any efforts designed to give the armed forces a new role in the future which aids international efforts in the search for peace and security.

5. We acknowledge the recent progress made by our partners in disarmament and the control of weapons, nonproliferation, and in controlling the export of sensitive products. We urge every country that has still not ratified the Tlatelolco Treaty to do so soon, and urge those who are still not members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to join it. We invite all countries to promote the indefinite and unconditional expansion of the Nonproliferation Treaty. We applaud the dialogue that has been initiated on measures to promote confidence, to which we can contribute Europe's concrete experience on the subject.

6. We express our satisfaction over the significant role acquired by the OAS in the defense of representative democracy and human rights and in the struggle against poverty. We fully support OAS actions to ensure free and democratic elections.

We value and support peace-seeking efforts by the United Nations and the OAS, as well as those by groups of friendly states in Central America and the Caribbean. We reiterate our willingness to contribute to reinserting refugees and war veterans into civilian life.

7. We acknowledge with satisfaction the contributions made by Latin American and Caribbean countries to maintaining world peace and international security and confronting the global challenges of these days, as well as granting greater resources to the United Nations to carry out its basic tasks. We propose stepping up the dialogue on these issues.

8. We make note, with great satisfaction, of the regional and subregional integration processes under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, and reiterate that we are willing to share our experience in this field.

We propose stepping up dialogue and cooperation between the EU, the Rio Group, Central America (San Jose) and Mercosur [Common Market of the South], broadening the debate, and pointing out the political aspects of this dialogue. We are willing to initiate and strengthen dialogue and cooperation with other regional and subregional organizations, as well as with each country separately.

We are willing to continue to grant our Caribbean partners the cooperation established in the Lome Agreement. We applaud the recent creation of the Caribbean States' Association.

9. Promoting commerce and investments will continue to be the cornerstone of our relations with our Latin American and Caribbean partners. We warmly celebrate the success of the GATT Uruguay Round and the creation of the World Trade Organization. We hope for a dynamic increase in trade between Europe and the emerging markets in Latin America, especially through the prompt application of tariff reductions and the elimination of commercial obstacles.

We support new national and international measures and the establishment of agreements between state members to promote and protect investments and to improve the investments climate in general. This entails increasing juridical security and developing laws on intellectual property.

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We acknowledge the significant role played by the Cooperation Program for European Community Investment to promote joint enterprises.

We intend to make maximum use of the third-generation cooperation agreements the EU has with Latin American regional organizations. We are willing to initiate talks for new and more ambitious agreements that may reflect the economic potential of our partners and the integration system they are in the process of setting up.

10. We will make the most of the solid framework of the political development of the EU and its member states. We offer to continue working with member countries interested in reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean along the path toward sustainable development.

Our cooperation, based on the desire to support the efforts that are under way in each country, is designed to broaden the bases for economic progress, social justice, democracy, and human rights. Our assistance should be primarily focused on the least favored social groups, the indigenous populations included, and aimed at enhancing their ability to preserve their cultural identity and improve their socioeconomic status.

We emphasize the significant role played by the European Investment Bank in promoting cooperation between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries.

11. We consider it to be of paramount political importance to continue to strengthen cultural ties with our partners and to intensify exchanges at all levels. We continue to uphold the idea of promoting cultural cooperation on an equal footing, by offering Latin American and Caribbean countries greater opportunities for disseminating their culture in Europe and for preserving their cultural heritage.

We want to further strengthen cooperation in the areas of education, science, and technology.

12. In keeping with the conclusions made in Rio de Janeiro by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, we attach special significance to cooperation on environmental matters in supporting sustainable development. We want to make joint efforts with our Latin American and Caribbean partners to preserve those ecosystems that are now in danger, particularly the rain forests.

We are willing to cooperate with our modern technology, which would not harm the environment because it has already been tested and applied in Europe and elsewhere in the world, with a view to bringing relief to the residents of large urban centers, refurbishing existing industrial complexes, and building new ones that observe modern environmental rules.

13. We are willing to intensify our cooperation with our partners in fighting terrorism, the drug trade, and related crimes. Those countries in which drugs are either produced or consumed, as well as those used as drug routes, must share the responsibility for fighting the causes of this problem. To this end we must have a balanced alternative development program, ensure law enforcement, and reduce the demand for drugs.

In order to support ongoing drug enforcement efforts by the Andean and Central American countries, we are considering whether we could set up a special regime of the generalized system of preferences to benefit these countries.

14. We want to promote dialogue among the parliaments of Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Similarly, we want to call upon all nongovernmental organizations that are actively interested in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the citizens of these two regions, to intensify their contacts as a sign of solidarity among their peoples.

Caricom Chairman Meets UN Chief in Jamaica

FL1811175194 Bridgetown CANA in English 1701 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 18, CANA—Caribbean Community [Caricom] Chairman, Owen Arthur, has called for closer collaboration between the Community and the United Nations.

Arthur, who is also the Barbados Prime Minister, made the appeal during a meeting with UN Secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali in Jamaica this week. Both men were attending the inaugural International Seabed Authority summit.

Arthur, according to the Government Information Service, told the Secretary General that "so great is the importance placed by the community on its relations with the UN that efforts are currently being made through the Group of Caricom permanent representatives in conjunction with the Caricom Secretariat to have an item placed on the Agenda of the General Assembly to deal with "Cooperation between the United Nations and Caricom."

The adoption of that resolution would allow the Secretaries General of both organisations to consult on ways of developing closer cooperation on work programmes of Caricom.

One of the most urgent issues facing Caricom, Arthur said, was the situation in Haiti and the participation of Caricom soldiers and police in the multinational force. He said he was particularly interested in ensuring that the transition from phase one involving the force to phase two, which calls for a UN Mission in Haiti, takes place in the appointed time.

Arthur pointed out that Caricom also has a strong interest in the reform of the UN system. He indicated

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that the ending of the cold war era has given rise to the emergence of a new distribution of economic and military power.

Telefonica's Investments To Double

95SM0021A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Oct 94 p B8

[Article: "Telefonica on the Track of Telephone Investments"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Spanish capital is cornering Latin America. Telefonica has invested $4.58 billion, comprising $1.74 billion in Argentina (TASA [Telefonica de Argentina, Inc.]); $1.635 billion in Chile; and $1.205 billion in CANTV-Venezuela [National Telephone Company of Venezuela]. Telefonica's first semester net profit was $87.6 million.

Madrid—The president of Telefonica de Espana, Candido Velazquez, announced yesterday that this semi-state-owned company plans to double its investments in Latin America, with the object of attaining a total of $10 billion "within a few years."

Velazquez made these statements to a group of reporters at the close of a press conference during a seminar on investments in the Latin American area. This seminar was held in connection with the annual General Assembly of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Telefonica's president stated in his remarks that the operating companies in which its international subsidiary Telefonica Internacional SA (TISA [Telefonica International, Inc]) has stakes "represent an overall investment of over $5 billion in telephone plant facilities during the 1990-94 period alone."

The company's investments in Latin America, he said, "are not governed by speculative criteria, nor do they seek mere short-term profits. On the contrary, they seek to contribute to the long-term growth of Latin America's telecommunications infrastructures as an essential sector for the countries in which we are present."

Velazquez referred to the region's "extraordinary growth potential," "given the limited levels of penetration that characterize the Latin American countries" in all classes of telecommunications services.

The modernization of Latin America's telecommunications sector is acting as a driving engine of economic development with an "unquestionable puiling effect."

Telefonica's president pointed out that this company has the world's ninth largest telephone network, with almost 15 million lines in service, operates the world's third largest network of submarine cables, and participates actively in the three satellite communications consortiums (Intelsat, Eutelsat, and Inmarsat).

The reference international seminar was inaugurated by Spain's minister of public works, transportation, and telecommunications, Jose Borrell.

TISA had a net profit of $87.6 million during the first half of 1994, up 80 percent versus the same period in 1993.

According to the company, Telefonica has stakes in Chile's CTC [expansion not given] and Entel-Chile companies, Telefonica de Argentina, and CACTV-Venezuela, among others.

Since its acquisition of stakes in the four principal companies that TISA operates in Latin America, Telefonica's material investment in these companies has attained a total of $4.58 billion, including $1.74 billion in Argentina (TASA); $1.635 billion in Chile ($1.392 billion in CTC and $243 million in Entel-Chile); and $1.205 billion in CANTV-Venezuela.

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Andean Parliament Leader Describes Goals

PA1611165094 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 15 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Andean Parliament believes the struggle against corruption is one of the essential steps in consolidating the democratic system. For this reason, the president of the organization has decided to back the hemispheric anticorruption front President Rafael Caldera will present at the hemispheric summit, which has been called by President Bill Clinton for next December in Miami.

Andean Parliament President Victor Hugo Cardenas visited the Venezuelan president yesterday, accompanied by Paciano Padron, a candidate for secretary general of the Social Christian party.

Victor Hugo Cardenas, who is also president of the Bolivian Congress, said he received wise words of advice during his visit with President Rafael Caldera for moving on with the integration process, not only among the Andean zone but also with other countries in the area and the subregion.

Cardenas said Caldera is a convinced integrationist. We spoke of the virtues of the process and the problems that come with developing it. The experience he gave us comes only with time.

The Parlatino [as published] president described the organization's current objectives. He stressed the need to strengthen the Cartagena Accords and the Andean Pact, which can contribute to regional integration. He said there must be a summit meeting of Parlatino [as published] countries to achieve this goal. Such a meeting would be a symbol of political support for integration according to Cardenas.

[EL GLOBO] What is Parlatino's [as published] position on NAFTA?

[Cardenas] The integration process has focused primarily on economic and trade issues. We are interested, of course, in creating ties with NAFTA and how interesting would such a relationship with NAFTA be from the standpoint of a group of integrated countries and within the context of international trade.

Victor Hugo Cardenas is on an international tour, which began in Venezuela, so as to define an agenda for the current leaders of the Andean Pact. The trip will include Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

Presidential Teleconference Dedicates Fiber Optic Cable

PY1711155594 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2046 GMT 16 Nov 94

[By Marcio de Morais]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 16 Nov (AE)—Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries, with the exception of Paraguay, are as of today interconnected by the world's most modern communications technology. During a ceremony at Itmaraty, Foreign Minister Celso Amorim dedicated the Unisur optic fiber cable with a teleconference with Argentine President Carlos Menem and Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle. The 1,720 km-long Unisur cable links Florianopolis and the two neighboring countries. Through three television sets that were interconnected by Unisur, the two presidents and Amorim hailed the start of operations of the system. They were accompanied by representatives of Antel [National Telecommunications Administration] (Uruguay), Telecom (Argentina) and Embratel [Brazilian Telecommunications Company].

Embratel President Renato Archer said that by mid-1995 Brazil will be connected to the rest of the world through optic fibers. The optic fiber cable that was dedicated today can simultaneously transmit 15,120 voice, text, image, and data signals with much higher speed and quality than traditional cables. In addition, the expansion of the optic fiber system tends to make it much cheaper.

"When we installed the first cable, it cost $120,000 per km," Archer said. "The cost dropped to $70,000 per km (interconnection joining Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo), and now, the cost of the cable connecting Sao Mateus and Fortaleza is approximately $34,000 per km." Embratel provided 8.8 percent of the total investment ($75 million) for Unisur. Of this amount, $53 million was used for the contract for provision of the cable by the AT&T, Alcatel and Pirelli consortium. The Unisur cable will join the Embratel national optic fiber network, which will interconnect the entire country at the beginning of 1995. "The only missing stretches are 6,000 km—of the 7,000 km between Florianopolis and Fortaleza—and a stretch joining Belo Horizonte and Brasilia," Archer reported.

The Brazilian network will also be connected to the Americas I and Columbus II underwater cables. The 8,000-km Americas I cable joins Fortaleza and Florida through the Virgin Islands and Saint Thomas, at a cost of $258 million (13 percent of which will be provided by Embratel). In Venezuela, the Americas I will join the Columbus II cable, connecting the national optic fiber network to Europe and Asia.

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Cuba

Alarcon Decries Blockade in U.S. News Conference

FL1911165894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an AFP report, Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban parliament, said today that the reestablishment of relations between Cuba and the United States should be based on the rights of Cuba as an independent nation.

Alarcon, in Washington to participate in the first Conference on Society, Violence, and Health, said during a news conference that Cuba is not a North American colony. In regard to the White House's intention to maintain the blockade against Cuba, Alarcon said that to date, the blockade has not brought about the political and economic changes sought by the United States. Alarcon added that Cuba has diplomatic relations with more than 140 nations, and none of them presume to tell Cuba what to do, nor does Cuba attempt to dictate policy to them. Alarcon stressed that Cubans strive to preserve their national identity.

Alarcon emphasized that the United States has not invited Cuba to the upcoming hemispheric summit in Miami because it is trying to destroy Cuba. He said we will have to wait and see what concrete results Latin American and Caribbean countries obtain from Washington at the summit.

Returns From U.S., Views Compensation Laws

PA2011040394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2358 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Report by Javier Rodriguez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 19 Nov (PL)—Cuban Parliament President Ricardo Alarcon today said in this capital that the Cuban nationalization laws stipulate compensating former owners, not excluding U.S. companies.

To be honest, if we excluded these companies, there would be no political changes whatsoever in Cuba, because all former owners were already compensated, except the U.S. owners, who never accepted our laws, he maintained.

Alarcon made these statements as he returned to Havana from Washington, D.C., where he attended the meeting convened by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to discuss health problems and violence in modern societies.

As he spoke about the statements he made yesterday before U.S. and foreign media in Washington, Alarcon pointed out that he had explained that the Cuban laws did not have provisions opposing compensating the U.S. companies, because Cuba has never blockaded that country.

In other statements, he asserted that this position does not mean that nationalized properties will be returned to the original owners, adding that as we and the United States negotiate a compensation, we will have to give priority to the compensation Cuba deserves for the harm triggered by the U.S. aggressive policies, including the economic and commercial blockade.

Later, the Cuban official spoke about media reports, which he termed manipulated reports, favoring some anti-Cuban groups from Miami regarding eventual actions to be taken by the White House on the mass transfer of Cubans lodged at the Guantanamo Naval Base and Panama to the United States.

To this end, he said no decision has been made yet but admitted that the two governments discussed the issue.

Alarcon underscored that U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno herself stated that although some cases involving sick or older people must be taken into consideration, we must avoid anything that would question the validity and the implementation of the migration agreement signed on 9 September.

The parliament president agreed that every decision on this issue must be well thought out and implemented to prevent it from becoming a reason for having an illegal immigration, which is definitely the core of the problem.

He said: I believe this position continues to be a commitment for the two parties—commitment that the U.S. attorney general herself stressed.

As he was questioned on the upcoming hemispheric summit to be held in Miami at the request of President Bill Clinton, the parliament official remarked that no one knows yet the tangible results that may emerge from it, because the host country will attend the summit following a major electoral defeat suffered by its government.

This defeat was an indication of how U.S. political groups, which oppose normal relations with Latin America, have become more influential in that country, and this is why we are unsure about what may come out of this conference, Alarcon said.

As he spoke about the PAHO meeting, he termed it a significant event attended by ministers, political leaders, and legislators from most countries in the continent. They discussed the significance of international relations, which facilitate the resolution of those social problems that trigger violence.

The participants approved a final document, which will be submitted to the Miami summit, recognizing those social problems and including the economic, political, and cultural aspects of those problems.

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Alarcon interpreted the decision to invite Cuba to the PAHO meeting and the fact that it was asked to deliver the closing speech of this significant event as a recognition of the work Cuba has done in this regard.

He concluded that one interesting aspect of the meeting was the discussion on the serious violent situation the United States is experiencing—a discussion that was brought up by the U.S. authorities who attended the meeting and who highlighted the violence against U.S. children and women.

Spokesman on Possible U.S. Admission of Rafters

PA1911030094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Report by Barbara Betancourt from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman Miguel Alfonso has announced in Havana that Cuban emigrants will participate in events scheduled to be held on the island in the near future.

[Begin Alfonso recording] It has been confirmed that on 28 November the National Assembly will publicly discuss in Havana the citizenship issue with Cuban experts who live in Cuba and those Cubans who live abroad and are interested in this matter. This will take place on 28 November. It also is important to note that the Cuban Government is implementing a stable policy on human rights and that Cubans who live abroad will be taking part in this discussion.

I also have the pleasure of informing you that there is full confirmation that the first meeting ever between female Cuban intellectuals and artists who live on the island and those who live abroad will be held on 9-13 January 1995. The meeting will take place at the University of Havana. It is being sponsored by the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, the Federation of Cuban Women, and the University of Havana. This is one more element in the gradual process of advancing relations with emigrants. [end recording]

Alfonso also was asked about U.S. media reports that say some 3,000 Cubans under the age of 17 and their relatives, all of whom are now at the Guantanamo Naval Base and Panama, are being authorized to travel to the United States.

[Begin Alfonso recording] As in the cases of voluntary repatriation, neither side can impose on the other something that is not foreseen in the agreements. This is a move about which Cuba has no official information. Cuba has the right to expect that the United States will not unilaterally adopt any measure that runs against the letter or the spirit of the agreements reached on 9 September in New York. In other words, it is a basic principal that the reciprocal obligations established in the agreements must be met. This is my own opinion concerning these reports, which, as I said, have been leaked, but about which we have no, I repeat, no information. [end recording]

U.S. Government Sued Over Excess Cuban Visas

FL1811191494 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Association for Reform of U.S. Immigration Policies has sued the U.S. Government for exceeding itself in several points of the immigration accord signed with Cuba. The organization accused Attorney General Janet Reno of taking advantage of her authority by granting more visas to Cuban immigrants than those allowed under U.S. law.

Sources: U.S. May Require Pressure Against Cuba at Summit

FL1811191294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in Washington have stated that countries participating in the Miami summit might be warned of having to take part in the U.S. pressures against Cuba before receiving promises of new trade agreements with the United States.

PRENSA LATINA, NBC To Sign Communications Accord

FL1811164494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 18 November, in Havana City, Cuban press agency PRENSA LATINA and the U.S. television network NBC will sign an agreement on the exchange of information.

Telephone Communication With U.S. To Be Restored

PA2111014994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1757 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 20 Nov (PL)—It was officially reported here today that Cuba and the United States are working to restore telephone communications between the two countries. The communications were interrupted in 1992 due to the damage caused by Hurricane Andrew as it swept through U.S. territory.

The International Telecommunications Enterprise (Emtelcuba) and U.S. companies are currently installing the technological equipment, which must be operational to resume the service as soon as possible, a Cuban Communications Ministry note stated.

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Published by the weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE, the note explained that many intense rounds of talks and bilateral negotiations have been held since July 1993, when the U.S. Government made public its new telecommunications policies on the island.

The source added that documents and operation and interconnection agreements were reached and signed with six internationally known companies, namely LDDS, MCI, AT&T, IDB, Sprint, and Wiltel, during meetings attended by more than 15 U.S. long-distance companies.

The note added that the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, with the approval of the State Department, in early October approved the agreements signed by the U.S. companies and Emtelcuba, thus clearing the path to restore the telephone service.

The official note stressed that the Cuban side accepted the agreement for the sake of making the communications between Cuban emigres living in the United States and their relatives in the island possible, adding that this position adds an essential humanitarian touch.

According to the agreement reached, Cuba will obtain $0.60 (half the cost) for each minute of communication coming from the United States to the island.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government authorized the U.S. telephone companies to directly pay to the Cuban party the due revenues for its participation in the international long-distance service.

In addition, the parties accepted to charge, a common practice in this field, an additional fee or a toll for each collect call (made in Cuba to be paid in the United States) as a compensation for the operating costs incurred by Cuba in establishing the communication.

In these cases, the agreed upon rate is $1 per call (equivalent to the average fee charged by the Caribbean countries). The FCC and the State Department approved the rate.

Finally, it was reported that the beginning date and the form of operation for this telephone service will be announced when the installation of the necessary technological equipment is completed.

UN Human Rights Commissioner Continues Visit

Meets With Intellectuals

PA1811213794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1836 GMT 17 Nov 94

[Report by Javier Rodriguez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana—Jose Ayala Lasso, UN high commissioner for human rights, today held a dialogue with 50 Cuban intellectuals in this capital.

Ayala, who is on an official visit to Cuba, heard the viewpoints of individuals prominent in Cuban culture regarding artistic creativity on the island, the right to criticism, discrepancies in the sector, and the intellectuals' opposition to harassment against the country through foreign publicity.

Early in the meeting the visitor said his trip to Cuba did not constitute an investigation, decision, or criticism of Cuba's human rights situation.

He added that Cuba autonomously extended a kind invitation which he had accepted. It was also essential to request, if possible, a meeting with the intellectual sector of artistic creation, as well as with workers, students, and government officials, among others.

Writer Eduardo Heras attended the meeting and stressed his views on the current development of criticism in movies and other media, something unknown and distorted by those who pretend that this possibility does not exist in Cuba.

Orlando Castellanos related his many years of experience in radio, even countering—on occasion—certain persons' narrow viewpoints, with the guarantee that he would be able to discuss them.

He recalled that one of his articles was published years ago, with some cuts, in a local magazine. As a result of his protest, the Culture Ministry had the text published in its entirety with a statement that the magazine had mistakenly omitted something.

Playwright Hector Quintero emphasized the exceptional timing of Ayala's visit, given the difficult economic situation, and said that despite these difficulties, Cuban intellectuals produce and enjoy the right to expose their works without restriction.

The exchange of views with Ayala Lasso was attended by Abel Prieto, president of the National Cuban Writers and Artists Union (UNEAC), Roberto Fernandez Retamar, poet laureate and director of Casa de las Americas, Cintio Vitier, Graciela Pogolotti, Octavio Cortazar, Enrique Nunez Rodriguez, and other outstanding intellectuals.

Before his visit to the UNEAC, the high commissioner met with the board of directors of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] and toured a cigar factory in the capital.

The day's program also includes a meeting with Catholic Church representatives; a meeting with Jaime Crombet, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]; and participation in an ANPP progress report assembly in a Havana neighborhood.

Ministry Spokesman Comments

PA1811182294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Report by Barbara Betancourt; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] As anticipated, the visit to Cuba by Ecuadoran Ambassador Jose Ayala Lasso, the UN high commissioner for human rights, was the issue most covered by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Miguel Alfonso during his weekly meeting with the national and international media:

[Begin Alfonso recording] The purpose of Ayala Lasso's visit is, evidently, related to the nature of his mandate. I was surprised by the information reported by certain radio stations and newspapers stating Ayala Lasso is coming here to investigate. Ayala Lasso is here in accordance with his mandate; that is, to promote international cooperation on human rights issues in favor of the advancement and protection of human rights.

His mandate does not mean he will investigate this or that case, or this and that situation, or the country's general situation. Ayala Lasso's mandate, as far as I know—and he himself has insisted on this point on several occasions—is that he is coming to propitiate cooperation with the Cuban Government. Ayala Lasso is neither a judge nor a jury. His mandate is one aimed at propitiating a dialogue between all member states. As another member state, Cuba decided to extend to Ayala Lasso the same policy of cooperation it has traditionally extended to the United Nations in all its activities without excluding such an important issue as human rights.

Cuba was the first Latin American country to extend an invitation to such a high-ranking UN official. He is probably the highest ranked official at this time. I do not have the ranking list of all UN officials available with me now, but I believe he is subordinate to the secretary general only. Anyhow, Cuba was the first Latin American country that took this step to invite him to visit the country.

His mandate is unmistakable. It is based on the UN Charter and the 1948 Universal Declaration. His mandate even clearly specifies that the Charter [words indistinct] the national sovereignty, and respect for each state's internal divisions; that is, Ayala Lasso is here to undertake a concrete mission: to learn firsthand about Cuba's reality, something of which he has not yet had an opportunity to learn from the perspective of his new position. He has only had the opportunity to do so since his appointment last February; therefore, my impression is that he has accepted the invitation, because he is interested in learning firsthand of Cuba's reality, and the government made it easy for him by extending an invitation, which he accepted.

He may have his own opinions and way of thinking. It may even be that he may find when he arrives in Cuba that his opinions on specific issues are groundless. He may understand [words indistinct] his presence in Cuba it may not be the same or may even be reinforced. Thus, there lies the importance of his physical presence in Cuba: to verify, with access to all opinions, unrestricted. His presence here is an opportunity for him to simply carry out his mandate. [end recording]

In carrying out his mandate, Ayala Lasso met with the ministers of the interior, justice, education, and higher education, the attorney general, the president of the National Cuban Writers and Artists Union, the vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, representatives of nongovernment organizations, union and student leaders, and religious leaders representing various denominations.

Scheduled for 18 November are meetings with the ministers of public health, labor, and social security, as well as with the president of the Supreme People's Tribunal, Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State, and, once again, with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

It has not been confirmed or overruled yet, however, that Ayala Lasso might be received by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Another issue that caught the media's attention was another important visit by Cardinal (Roger Echegaray), president of the Vatican Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace. In addition to activities related to his Catholic hierarchy, the cardinal is also holding scheduled meetings with government leaders, among whom we can mention Foreign Minister Robaina who, by the way, has a tight itinerary during the next few days.

According to Foreign Ministry Spokesman Miguel Alfonso, the Cuban foreign minister will be making the opening address at the opening of the International Solidarity Movement with Cuba, scheduled to begin on 21 November. The following Monday, 28 November, Robaina will travel to Mexico to attend the inaugural ceremony of President-elect Ernesto Zedillo.

Human Rights Leader Refuses Meeting

PA1911002194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2246 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Havana, 18 Nov (EFE)—Gustavo Arcos, president of the Cuban Human Rights Committee [CCPDH], today refused to meet Jose Ayala Lasso, UN high commissioner for human rights, because he felt the meeting was not set up properly.

Arcos had been summoned along with a dozen dissidents to a meeting with the high commissioner very early this morning at the UNESCO offices.

Arcos told EFE that Ayala Lasso had not brought along any list of dissidents and that representatives from other groups had prepared a list "to their understanding."

On Wednesday [16 November], the first day of his stay here, before beginning his official program, the UN high commissioner received activists Elizardo Sanchez Santacruz and Moises Rodriguez from the Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation [CDHRN], as well as Vladimiro Roca from the Social Democratic

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Current [Corriente Socialista Democratica]. The meeting of these three representatives of the internal dissidence movement with the Ecuadoran diplomat lasted more than an hour, and, according to Arcos, this morning's meeting was set up during that meeting.

Arcos told EFE that he regretted he had not been taken into account during the first meeting. "There was not even the most basic warning," he said. Gustavo Arcos, 67, one of the human rights founders in Cuba, is the brother of Sebastian Arcos, who is serving a four-year and eight month prison sentence for "enemy propaganda." [passage omitted]

Commissioner Comments

FL1911125294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jose Ayala Lasso, UN high commissioner for human rights, stated during a press conference in Havana for national and international press agencies that his visit to Cuba has been positive.

[Begin Ayala recording, in progress] ....social and cultural. Likewise, I thank the Cuban Government for the invitation to visit. You will recall that the resolution of the UN Assembly, which created the position of high commissioner for human rights, gave that commissioner a specific assignment. I have already visited several countries in compliance with this assignment. Cuba was the first Latin American country to invite me. I thank you, because this has given me the chance to visit Cuba to discuss the fundamental topic of my mandate, the promotion and protection of human rights. [words indistinct] investigate. I therefore proposed several actions for the Cuban Government to consider, which could be adopted with the freedom Cuba should be entitled to. [end recording]

Ayala will leave Havana early on 19 November, after having completed a tight schedule. During his three-day visit, Ayala met with ministers, nongovernment and social organizations, intellectuals, students, and representatives of other sectors of society.

Meets With Fidel Castro

PA1911184094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Nov 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Fidel Castro met with Jose Ayala Lasso, UN high commissioner for human rights, in Havana to discuss matters dealing with the duties inherent to Lasso's post. The Cuban daily GRANMA stated that the Cuban leader and the top UN official agreed on the need to prevent the distortion of human rights topics for political purposes. Ayala Lasso also met in Havana with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and local nongovernmental organizations and hosted a news conference with local and foreign reporters.

Jose Ayala Lasso described his visit to Cuba as positive and noted the cooperation he has received from the Havana government during his stay. Ayala Lasso hosted a news conference last night at the conclusion of his activities and official meetings with Cuban authorities. He said a dialogue has begun, the importance of which everyone has recognized. He also noted the facilities made available to him in Cuba for unimpeded talks with the individuals and institutions he had chosen. He said he was able to meet with representatives of all sectors of Cuban society and added that in Cuba, as in all countries of the world, progress can be made in promoting and developing human rights.

Ayala Lasso added that he did not come to Cuba to investigate, accuse, or issue a badge of good conduct and reiterated his obligation to support compliance with UN General Assembly resolutions, including that which condemns the use of unilateral measures against states. The ranking UN official stated that the Cuban Government has reiterated its well-known stance against a special rapporteur for Cuba as approved by the UN Human Rights Commission—under pressure from the United States, in the opinion of Cuban authorities. Ayala Lasso noted that next January he will submit a report to the UN Human Rights Commission that will include his opinion on his visit to Cuba.

To conclude, the UN official was thankful for the attention he received and reiterated that the fundamental purpose of his trip to Cuba was to comply with the mandate given him by the international organization when it created the post he now holds.

Accord Reached on Human Rights Agenda

PA2011033394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2100 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Report by Gerardo Arreola]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Cuba has reached an agreement with the United Nations to open a new agenda on human rights, but the country had to permit the minuscule internal opposition to raise its voice, observers reported today.

According to the agreement, Cuban authorities and the United Nations will open a "dialogue" for "cooperation," which presupposes negotiated actions and excludes reports on specific instances, formal denunciations, and periodical assessments.

The commitment was announced yesterday by UN Human Rights High Commissioner Jose Ayala Lasso, who concluded an official five-day visit to Cuba on Saturday [19 November].

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In the new formula, Cuba is recognized by the United Nations as a country that cooperates in such an explosive subject as human rights without having to meet urgent deadlines or name specific instances or persons. Cuban authorities have thus gained some leeway within the international organization's system, a leeway that Cuba had lacked since the UN Human Rights Commission had appointed three years ago a "special rapporteur" to monitor the situation on the island.

The rapporteur, the Swedish diplomat Carl-Johan Groth, never did come to Cuba because his investigating and reporting mission was rejected by Havana, which labeled it as a deliberate attempt at hostile meddling in the country's internal affairs.

The confrontation that Groth's annual report presupposed for the island has now been offset by the "dialogue" announced by Ayala Lasso, who agreed with President Fidel Castro to "avoid manipulating the subject for political purposes."

In exchange, Ayala Lasso takes back with him the Cuban government's offer to release several people and consider signing international agreements and others that the high commissioner declined to make public, but which as a whole form the new common agenda.

In a news conference, the high commissioner said that, "with honesty and clarity," he suggested to Cuban authorities measures to improve respect for human rights. In addition, the Ecuadoran diplomat heard more than 15 members of "the so-called dissidence," a minuscule and diverse, but active and persistent, political group, whose sole mention usually irritates the authorities. The activists concurred in demanding amnesty for more than 1,000 prisoners, whom they regard as political prisoners, and expressed their assessment of the exercise of basic rights on the island.

Interlocutors of the high commissioner included opposition veteran Elizardo Sanchez, social democrat Vladimiro Roca, Christian Democratic Party leader Osvaldo Paya, human rights activist Aida Valdes Santana, independent jurist Rene Gomez, conservative Odilia Collazo, and Ruben Ruiz and Reinaldo Cosano, followers of the far-rightist Cuban-American National Foundation, with head office in Miami.

Church, UN Intensify Human Rights Efforts

PA2011224794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1837 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Report by By Antonio Raluy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 20 Nov (AFP)—The United Nations and the Catholic Church in the past few days have intensified their efforts in defense of human rights in Cuba, and apparently, the authorities in Havana have listened them—at least partially.

After visits to Cuba, Jose Ayala Lasso, the UN high commissioner for human rights, and French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Justice and Peace Pontifical Council, announced new human rights initiatives.

The two were on the island for the same four days and were greeted on the evening of 18 November by President Fidel Castro, who offered "the support and cooperation of Cuba" to the high commissioner in the fulfillment of his mission and described the Vatican's preparations for the jubilee for the year 2000 as a "positive initiative."

Ayala Lasso said that he urged the Cuban Government to examine the case of several political prisoners and the reply was that some could be freed "very soon."

According to the high commissioner, the Cuban authorities said that they are "willing to cooperate with UN mechanisms," but not with Carl Johan Groth, special rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission.

The commission tasked him with investigating "systematic, flagrant, and massive violations" of human rights in Cuba, a mission that the Cuban Government described as "discriminatory."

Finally, Ayala Lasso stated that he proposed that the Cuban Government ratify certain international conventions on human rights, such as those on torture and civil, political, economic, and social rights. The Cuban Government responded it will "very soon" make a decision regarding this request.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Etchegaray announced the creation of a Commission of Justice and Peace in Cuba, based on the Papal Council he presides over.

According to the prelate, the commission will be tasked with "seeing what does not work" in the country, but also "seeing positive things, which may serve as an example." Thus, it will not be "some sort of Amnesty International."

The Catholic Church must be the "ferment for reconciliation in Cuba and everywhere else," added Etchegaray, who concluded his visit with a call to seek "national solutions with the active participation of all," so that Cuba can overcome its current crisis.

Both Ayala Lasso and the cardinal implicitly condemned the economic, financial, and commercial embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba.

The high commissioner called for the establishment of normal commercial ties with Cuba and Etchegaray denounced the worsening of the suffering of the Cuban people "resulting from uninterrupted measures from abroad to crush their everyday lives."

Meanwhile, various leaders of dissident and human rights defense movements expressed their disappointment with the attitude of the high commissioner, stating

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that he had not paid enough attention to them and had received them nearly clandestinely.

Visiting Cardinal Meets With Robaina

FL1811231694 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina met His Eminence Cardinal Roger Etchegaray at the Foreign Ministry building in Havana on 18 November. Monsignor Beniamino Stella, papal nuncio to Cuba; Dr. Hermes Herrera, Cuban ambassador to the Vatican; and Jose Antonio Noriega and Isidro Gomez, from the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee's Religious Affairs Department, also attended the meeting. This is Cardinal Etchegaray's third visit to Cuba. He is of French-Basque origin. He participated in a mass held at Havana Cathedral on the night of 16 November to commemorate Havana's 475th anniversary. Cardinal Etchegaray will attend a reception hosted by Monsignor Stella before returning to Rome.

Sees Fidel Castro

PA2011124394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2007 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 19 Nov (PL)—Official sources report that Cuban President Fidel Castro met today with Roger Etchegaray, president of the Justice and Peace Pontifical Council and the Cor Unum Commission, who will conclude today a four-day pastoral and working visit to Cuba.

According to Caridad Diego, head of the Religious Affairs Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Castro and the Vatican dignitary talked for about two hours on Friday [18 November] night.

Diego was interviewed by newsmen shortly after a conference given by Cardinal Etchegaray on the reconciliatory mission of the church and its service to justice and peace.

Diego said the visitor and the Cuban president discussed the jubilee celebrating the third millennium since the birth of Christ, the papal envoy's visit to Rwanda, the church's initiatives to support families and the poor, and the dialogue between religions.

Cardinal Etchegaray gave a speech to an audience of Cuban bishops, Christians, members of the Religious Affairs Office, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba, and members of the media. Etchegaray has been the head of the Justice and Peace Pontifical Council for 10 years.

He will conclude his visit to Havana today after having met with Cuban officials, presided over the second social week of the Catholic Church, and visited historical, religious, and cultural points of interest.

This is Cardinal Etchegaray's third trip to Cuba in six years. He also visited Cuba in 1988 and 1992.

Announces Formation of Commission

PA2011161294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2157 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Catholic Church of Cuba announced today that a justice and peace commission will be formed but clarified that it will not be related to organizations such as Amnesty International.

The announcement was made this Saturday [19 November] by French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Justice and Peace Pontifical Council at the Vatican, and was confirmed by Havana Archbishop Jaime Ortega, who will enter the College of Cardinals next week.

"The establishment of this commission was not previously among the church's objectives. We must learn about its purposes and reach an agreement on it," Caridad Diego, head of the Religious Affairs Office of the Communist Party of Cuba, has stated.

In statements to the press, Diego said that the church, without establishing a Justice and Peace Commission, has played that role in its talks and interviews and has shown "how it can further the work done by our people effectively."

Etchegaray, who will conclude this Saturday his nearly week-long official visit to the Caribbean island, met with President Fidel Castro for two hours last night. According to Diego, both officials refrained from commenting on their meeting.

"The cardinal did not mention this initiative at any of the meetings (with top-ranking officials on the island)," Diego stated after asserting that Etchegaray's third visit to the island had been a positive one. Etchegaray inaugurated the Catholic Church's second social week for lay and religious people.

She reported that Castro had praised Pope John Paul II's initiative to organize a jubilee to commemorate the advent of the third millennium. However, neither the president nor Etchegaray referred to the suspension of the pope's visit to the island.

The cardinal held a conference on "the church's reconciliatory mission and its service to justice and peace in Cuba." He said that the church demands love and tolerance because "when peace dies, the young are the first to go."

The archbishop of Havana said that they had taken advantage of the Cardinal's presence to announce the establishment of this commission, which will be formed during the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Cuba over which he presides.

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"The commission's objective is to promote awareness among Christians of their role in society and to study the church's social doctrine. The commission will not be an organization like Amnesty International," the prelate clarified.

Ortega, who is 58 years old, cited as an example that a country can make the necessary changes to have a market economy, "which is not marvelous or perfect but about which the church has something ethical to say."

Cuban authorities have been implementing a program of partial economic reform since last year. The program includes strict adjustment measures and the implementation of typical market laws such as free supply and demand.

As president of the Episcopal Conference, Ortega has strongly criticized the government in the past for what he considers political intolerance and has called upon it to change and to further dialogue and national reconciliation.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0336 GMT on 20 November transmits a 315-word report which states: "Cardinal Roger Etchegaray sent a message of solidarity to the Cuban people stating that to solve the crisis, they must find 'national solutions with the active participation of each member of your family.'

["'Your wounds are very deep and are made worse by measures from abroad that increase the oppression in your daily life. Although things are scarce, make an effort to share with dignity and solidarity,' the cardinal stated in a written message which he read at the Havana airport a few minutes before leaving.

["He invited all Cubans to participate and cited a phrase by Cuban independence hero Jose Marti: 'Together for the good of all.'

["The cardinal added: 'Cuban people, I lovingly repeat to you: Look forward. Do not be afraid. Endure your wounds and enthusiastically work for reconciliation.'"]

Russia Committed To Fulfilling Oil-Sugar Trade Accord

PA1911031494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has committed itself to fulfilling the second part of the agreement signed with Cuba in December 1993. The agreement calls for exchanging 2.5 million metric tons of Russia oil for nearly 1 million metric tons of Cuban sugar.

The announcement was made in Moscow by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Davydov, who is also minister of foreign economic relations, during a meeting in that capital with Cuban Ambassador Rogelio Montenegro.

The first part of the agreement was fulfilled with the delivery by Moscow of 1.5 millior metric tons of crude oil and with the shipment by Havana of approximately 500,000 metric tons of sugar.

During the meeting between Davydov and Montenegro it was reported that all of this year's trade commitments arranged between the two countries will be fulfilled in December and in January 1995.

Ambassador to Russia Comments

FL1911174594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 94

[From the "Exclusive" program hosted by reporter Cesar Arredondo]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Arredondo] A cable from AFP in Moscow reports on the upcoming [words indistinct] of oil from Russia. Reporter Rolando Almirante has more information from the international communications studio.

[Almirante] Yes, thank you, Cesar. Good evening to you and to all the listeners of the "Exclusive" program. The news comes from AFP in Moscow. We have tried to obtain more informaiton and for that purpose we have made contact with Cuban Ambassador to Russia Rogelio Montenegro, to hear his comments on the matter. Good evening, or morning in Moscow, Rogelio.

[Montenegro] Good evening.

[Almirante] We wanted to hear your comments on this AFP report.

[Montenegro] Well, just a few days ago the vice president of the Russian Government and the foreign economic relations minister informed me that they would continue the second part of the shipments of oil to Cuba which were contracted for in December 1993.

That is... [pauses] It is not a new agreement. It is simply that for various reasons, including decisions of this ministry and others such as the enterprise designated to negotiate with Cuba, the agreement had been interrupted. It was not our fault. They informed me of their decision to continue shipments of oil to Cuba in exchange for sugar.

[Almirante] In other words, this agreement was established last year, and there had not been....

[Montenegro, interrupting] They were interrupted in July. In July, the designated enterprise made some demands that were not convenient to Cuba.

[Almirante] That means that if both sides' demands are met, this exchange of oil for sugar could continue next year.

[Montenegro] This was also discussed. We proposed the signing of a new agreement, and we are working on that. It would have more or less the same conditions as this

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agreement. We are currently working on that. We hope that Minister Davydov will travel to Cuba.

[Almirante] That means that he would come to Cuba to establish this agreement?

[Montenegro] I cannot say that he will. We have invited him for the signing of the protocol. During the discussions, both parties agreed that the exchange would continue in 1995 under the same conditions as this year's.

[Almirante] Thank you, Ambassador.

Parlatino Head Visits; Commissions To Meet

PA1811194194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 17 Nov (PL)—Upon arriving in this capital, Humberto Celli, president of the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino], today praised the strength of the Cuban people in facing the current difficulties, especially those provoked by the U.S. blockade.

Celli will participate in the meetings of the commissions of health and regional affairs, state and municipal affairs of the regional legislative body, that will take place here on 18 and 19 November.

The parliamentary leader stressed that he is very happy to be visiting the island to corroborate the mental discipline and strength of the people in confronting difficulties, particularly the effects of the blockade that the administration of Washington maintains against Cuba and which Parlatino has condemned, the AGENCIA DE INFORMACION NACIONAL has reported.

Additionally, he excused himself for not being able to attend the first world meeting of solidarity with Cuba, which will meet in this capital between 21 and 25 November, because of his work schedule. Celli concluded by expressing his solidarity with the people who will attend the aforesaid meeting, because they are struggling for Latin American integration.

Commissions Discuss Health, Organizations

PA2111034394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1640 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Report by By Javier Rodriguez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 19 Nov (PL)—Two standing committees of the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) today started meetings in this capital to analyze issues related to health and to subregional, provincial, state, and municipal organizations.

Work started with a plenary session that included speeches by Parlatino President Senator Humberto Celli and Jaime Crombet, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government of Cuba.

Venezuela's Celli pointed out that Parlatino must adopt a specific and firm stand toward the situation of the region's mothers and children who are affected by a lack of assistance programs.

In this regard, he underscored the importance of the Cuban experience and described this issue as among the major challenges of the new millennium, and thus, governments of the area must define coherent policies.

He also said that it is necessary to promote laws to facilitate the solution of municipal problems and to implement a political-administrative decentralization strategy at that level.

Meanwhile, Crombet pointed out that the parliamentarians of Latin America arrived in Cuba at a crucial time when there is a strong U.S. harassment and pressure on the Antillean island. He, however, noted that there is a strong popular determination to defeat the U.S. blockade, whose aim is to make Cuba surrender out of hunger and disease.

Cuba is exercising a legitimate right to have its own ideas; it demands only respect and understanding and refuses to return to a past of inequality and dependency, he added.

The vice president of the Cuban Parliament pointed out that his country will never accept conditions that could undermine its right to sovereingty and independence such as the ones established by those who propose the lifting of the blockade in exchange for our yielding to foreign demands.

Cuba is striving to make its political project increasingly more popular and democratic and to adjust its economy to world reality despite U.S. aggressions, Crombet added.

The work of the committees, which will be in session until the afternoon of 20 Novermber, started right after the plenary meeting.

Economists Hold Fourth Provincial Congress

Minister: Various Sectors Recovering

PA1811182194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0321 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 17 Nov (PL)—Various sectors of the Cuban economy have begun to rebound, and this process is expected to continue buttressed by the economic measures the authorities have adopted, Finance and Prices Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez said today.

Speaking at the 4th Provincial Congress of the National Association of Cuban Economists, Rodriguez referred to

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the drafting of a new investment law to replace the existing one so as to keep it in step with a greater opening of the economy.

Nickel production, light industry, food, and tourism were among those sectors that experienced a recovery from January to September, according to the minister. He added that the country has paid part of its foreign debt and that its debt to Mexico, even, will be paid this year, something that reflects greater confidence on the island in the international sphere, where the price of Cuba's obligations are up in the secondary market.

Confidence in Cuba, he said, is also indicated by the interest to purchase Cuban obligations, which have arisen in international financial sectors owing to the island's reputation for paying.

This productive recovery is continuing during the last quarter of this year and is expected to continue in 1995, the official affirmed.

In addition, Rodriguez commented on the success of measures aimed at improving the country's finances, with a drop of 1.630 billion pesos (equivalent to dollars at the Cuban official exchange rate) in excess money in circulation until 31 October and the increase in the value of the peso with regard to the U.S. dollar on the black market from 120 pesos to 35 pesos to the U.S. dollar. The 340 delegates and 100 guests in attendance at the Havana forum discussed 75 lectures in six commissions dealing with various aspects of the Cuban economy and the challenges it now faces.

One of the lectures was by Angel M. Pernas, research deputy director of the Foreign Trade Ministry, on the need to create an economic program for this recovery phase and subsequent development, something which would foster greater confidence in the country abroad.

The forum is to conclude tomorrow, and Economy and Planning Minister Antonio Rodriguez Maurell is scheduled to deliver a special address.

Rodriguez Views Market Mechanisms

FL1911160194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Report by Mariela Diaz; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the fourth Havana City Economists Conference, Prices and Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez agreed that it has been necessary to introduce market mechanisms in Cuba, but that they have not invalidated the essence of the revolutionary principles in any way.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We have had to make the decision to introduce market mechanisms to our economy, which does not mean that our economy will now be called a market economy. That is to say, there is an important difference between these concepts. Among specialists, this could be an [words indistinct] element; we do not wish to delay its establishment because the decisions we have been making have created an opportunity, a significant opportunity in certain cases, for foreign investment in Cuba. These market mechanisms, such as the implementation of farmers markets and the industrial articles markets, afford significant opportunities. Now, the implementation of these mechanisms; the very existence of these commercial relations, in view of our current economic condition, should not convey the simplistic notion that we are establishing capitalist production in Cuba. [end recording]

Rodriguez announced the remodeling of Cuba's economy in 1995, a remodeling in which the types of ownership [propiedad] that coexist in Cuba today would be synchronized.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Next year, we must also endeavor to remodel the economy, so that these new types of ownership will be synchronized, whereby state ownership—I would go as far to as say whereby the representation of state interests—will be reconciled with the various forms of ownership. We have been creating private legal associations in which the major shareholder is the state; but they have a different method of operation, so we must therefore employ various methods of control and different management practices with these types of entities.

State enterprises will continue to operate, but they must be prepared, restructured enterprises. State enterprises must have a regular supply of resources so they can take maximum advantage of available resources and produce as efficiently as possible. [end recording]

The most important issues raised so far include: management improvement proposals, assessment of the principal current deficits in the industrial sector, the evolution of the underground economy, and economic association with foreign countries. The fourth Havana City Economists Convention concludes today.

Planning Minister Comments

PA1911171594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0254 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Report by Antonio Ruiz Portal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 18 Nov (PL)—Economics and Planning Minister Antonio Rodriguez Maurell said here today that Cuba is utilizing provisional economic measures compatible with the current international situation while it prepares definitive mechanisms.

In a special speech on the last day of the Fourth Provincial Congress of Havana Economists, the minister noted the importance of making sure that decisions on revamping the economy are gradual and carefully considered in order to avoid mistakes that have high political costs.

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Rodriguez Maurell stressed that it has been necessary to inject financial resources into the economy to restore production levels and to guarantee services that were affected by a shortage of raw materials and credits.

Aside from these provisional measures to face the country's immediate needs, the government is working on a lasting program to govern national activity and the use of investments, he explained.

Rodriguez Maurell asserted that the country is in a transition. He added without elaborating that if several decisions were in fact made over the last few years, not all of them are temporary because some will be maintained in keeping with the current international reality.

Regarding the administration of state-owned companies, he said it is important they act in a more decentralized manner under control mechanisms that will allow them to become more dynamic and productive. The minister said state-owned companies should make better use of material and human resources with efficiency as a fundamental objective.

One of the country's main objectives is to restore the value of the national currency by eliminating the excess currency in circulation and expanding the supply of consumption goods.

On this last aspect, the official recalled that the opening of a farmers market for the population's consumption and the upcoming opening of a crafts and industrial market will offer greater possibilities of meeting the people's needs.

Esteban Lazo, a member of the Politburo and its first secretary in Havana Province, stated that the country is working to maintain the population's social benefits with a more realistic view amid Cuba's difficult economic situation.

Lazo said that to develop a social benefit administration in Cuba, it is first necessary to guarantee its survival amid the economic restrictions the island is experiencing. To this end, he continued, it is necessary to work efficiently.

Lazo called on economists to make each company as efficient as possible to achieve better living conditions and to enable the nation to obtain the resources it needs.

During the last day of the forum, 340 delegates discussed in a plenary meeting various aspects of the Cuban economy, among them the budget, the cleansing of internal finances, the exchange of currency, the convertible peso, and the decrease in the cattle herd.

Lazo: Socialism Not To Be Rejected

FL1911131694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Fourth Congress of Cuban Economists ended on 18 November in Havana. Esteban Lazo, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party in Havana, stated during the last day of sessions that the new economic model in Cuba will not reject socialism.

[Begin Lazo recording] The new model and the changes we are implementing will always take into account the feeling, life, and contents of the Revolution, which seeks social justice. [end recording]

One of the topics discussed in the congress was the need to maintain a coherent policy within the economic changes introduced. The changes should keep in mind the situation of the country and should be implemented as quickly as possible. However, it is necessary to be aware of the social and political risks that could accompany the implementation of those changes.

The congress discussed decisive economic topics, such as efficiency, business performance, restoration of national finances, economic control, improvements in planning, and further training for economists. The participants also called for an increased role for economists in the formulation of economic policies in Cuba. [passage omitted]

Abel Prieto Opens Social Development Meeting

FL1911134794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Politburo member Abel Prieto, president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, stated that we should stand united in our faith in free and truly democratic humanist thought, which can open doors and find reverberations, and is capable of reaching many dormant consciences. Prieto made these comments in Havana at the inauguration of the International meeting of the People's Right to Social Development. He admitted that Cuba has made many mistakes, but notes that it has never betrayed the humanist and democratic essence of its revolutionary process. He added: We wish to emerge from this difficult situation and to work to overcome this period of shortages. This is something our people know.

[Begin Prieto recording] Something that fills us with pride is the growth of international solidarity movements. Everyday in many parts of the world, there are more men and women from diverse political and ideological affiliations who understand Cuba's cause, who realize how unfair, cruel, and inhumane the blockade is, and who are joining the solidarity movement. It is beautiful to observe how this movement grows, in a world where the multinationals of information do so much harm not only with the permanent distortion of Cuba's image, but by encouraging consumerism, mediocrity, stupidity, pragmatism, and the most primitive selfishness. It is very encouraging that there are so many

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men and women in the world who generously dedicate time, energy, and resources to save the project of justice and independence of a small country in the Caribbean. This means that the Cuban Revolution's cause also makes sense outside its borders. It has become the symbol of the rights of the weak, the small, and the marginal to construct the destiny they freely choose. [end recording]

Representatives from 50 countries participate in this meeting which will debate in commission on the social development of the peoples, which is the main subject of the meeting.

Haiti

Army Commander Appoints New High Command

PA1911180894 Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Nov (AFP)—General Bernardin Poisson, Army commander in chief, has appointed a new High Command, it was announced this Saturday in Port-au-Prince.

Two colonels, Martial Romulus and Mondesir Beaubrun, were promoted to brigadier general; seven lieutenant colonels were promoted to colonel; and three majors were promoted to lieutenant colonel with honors.

The composition of the new Army High Command is as follows:
Commander in Chief: Brig. Gen. Bernadin Poisson
Assistant commander in chief: Brig. Gen. Martial Romulus
General Staff Chief: Brig. Gen. Mondesir Beaubrun
Adjutant General: Col. Jean Brunel Goby.
Inspector General: Col. Jean Jonas
General Staff G1 (personnel): Col. Jodel Lessage
General Staff G2 (information): Col. Coulanges Justafort
General Staff G3 (operations and training): Col. Antoine Atouriste
General Staff G4 (logistics): Col. Jean-Robert Rene
Secretario del General Staff: Col. Jose Jean Eugene
Spokesperson: Col. Apollos Laurore
Commander of the Infantry Unit of the General Headquarters: Col. Marc Antoine Metellus
Chief of the Army's weapons service: Maj. Jacques J. Thomas
Commanders of the military departments
North: Lt. Col. Franck Celin
South: Lt. Col. Jacques Denis
West: Col. Jean Lucien Cazeau
Northwest: Lt. Col. Louis Jacques Beaudoin
Northeast: Lt. Col. Auguste R. Jerome
Grand Anse Military Academy: Lt. Col. Cassinir Louis
Southeast: Col. Jean Robert Gabriel
Center: Lt. Col. Michelange Hermann
Artibonite: Col. Belony Groshomme

Maj. Lener Renaud, former police commander in Delmas (east of the capital), was discharged. Lt. Col. Irving Mehu, former commander of the West Military Department, Maj. Apollin Medacier, assistant commander of the Artibonite Military Department, and Captain Gerald Larochelle were also discharged on Thursday.

Aristide Speaks on Armed Forces Day

FL1911013294 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1530 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Address by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Haitian Armed Forces Day, delivered from the steps of the National Palace, in Port-au-Prince; passages within quotation marks in French; passages within boldface in English—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister; ladies and gentlemen members of the cabinet; Mr. Senate President; distinguished senators and deputies; Mr. President of the Supreme Audit Court; Mr. Port-au-Prince Mayor, ladies and gentlemen members of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen representatives of international organizations; Mr. Commander in Chief of the Multinational Force; Mr. Interim Commander in Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]; distinguished members of the High General Staff, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers; dear students; dear compatriots; all of you in our nine departments and in our tenth department [reference to Haitians living abroad]:

"I am pleased and honored to be able to offer my best wishes for happiness as we commemorate the Battle of Vertieres. Congratulations and 1,000 thank-yous to all of you who worked to prepare for this commemoration. To Haitian youths who have come here today to renew your pledge, the pledge to respect life, to work toward the happiness of the country: Congratulations, and thank you for your eloquent testimony.

"On 18 November 1803, our ancestors taught us a lesson; on 18 November 1994, the youth have proved through one voice that the breath of our ancestors is in our souls and in the Haitian youths. This breath allows us to live and to respect everyone's life. On 18 November 1803, our ancestors fought so that the country could live; on 18 November 1994, the FADH interim commander in chief allowed us to hear the breath of our ancestors in his voice in a pledge to respect life. The courage of Clerveaux and Capois Lamort is in every Haitian in the nine departments, in the mountains, in the provinces, in towns, in cities, in Port-au-Prince, and in the 10th department. We find we are united as were Clerveaux and Capois Lamort: Haitian men and women are working for everyone's lives and so that life is respected.

"On the morning of 18 November 1803, Clerveaux—who was mulatto—embraced Capois—who was black—so that the union between mulattoes and blacks could

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lead us to victory. Our ancestors—mulatto and black—were courageous. This union was what allowed Capois to rise up after a burst of bullets killed his horse on the morning of 18 November 1803 and to courageously shout: Forward! This did not prevent our other ancestors from following him. This is also what allowed the observers to applaud him and to honor the courage of our ancestors.

"Today, we, the Haitian people, have come to the National Palace with the international community to remember this victorious day. We deserve to be congratulated as our ancestors were congratulated. We are demonstrating the same courage that they demonstrated. We have come to let out the same cry they let out: Forward! We have come to say: Forward! Forward! We want Haiti to progress; we want Haiti to live in reconciliation; we want the army, the police, and the people who are moving toward democracy to live together in Haiti.

"Happy birthday to all Haitian forces working with the multinational forces to ensure that life is respected. We must walk with respect for one another and for each other's lives forever and not for just one day, a few weeks, a few months, or a few years so that the birthday celebration lasts forever and not for just a few hours, a few days, a few months, or a few years. Respecting life means respect everyone's lives. Respecting everyone's rights means respecting the Constitution. Article 263.2 of the Constitution states: Civil servants take an oath of allegiance and respect to the Constitution and the flag."

When someone enlists in the Army or the police force, he raises his hand and swears that he will always respect and never betray the Constitution or the flag.

"The Haitian Armed Forces are there to guarantee security."

The Haitian Armed Forces are there to guarantee security. Respecting life means respecting each and every person's rights. The seventh provision of the Constitution says that you have the right to speak your mind on the way the country is run. Let us work toward respecting this seventh provision of the Constitution. I invite you, the military audience, to communicate your answers to me if you so wish. I just said that Article 264 says that the Haitian Army is there to ensure peace and security in the country.

I would like to ask all the young people in the audience: Do you have all the security that you deserve? Yes or no? Do you have full security day and night? You have enough security? [crowd shouts]

I hear many yeas. I don't know whether they understand. I will ask the question so that it is clear.

Are stores broken into at night? Those who know that stores are broken into at night, raise your hands. Those who know that some businessmen experience great losses at night, raise your hands so I can see. Thank you.

Can the Haitian Army help you feel more secure? We live in a democracy, where we respect one another. We will dialogue and make the birthday beautiful not just today, as I said, but forever. Some of you said yes and some of you said no.

The commander in chief just said yes. I would like the rest of the army to respond: Yes or no? Officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers: Can you help Haiti feel more secure? I would like to hear the voices of the officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers! Yes or no? Let me hear your voices. Officers, you may answer yes or no. Soldiers, you may answer yes or no. Can you help Haiti feel more secure? You do not have to be embarrassed. You can say yes or no, because the seventh provision of the Constitution gives Haitians the right to speak their minds on the way the country is run. I am asking everyone in regard to that right. I would like you to answer once more: Do you feel that you can help the Haitian people feel more secure? Yes or no? Officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers: Do not feel embarrassed! Answer me: Yes or no? Do you feel that you can help the Haitian people feel more secure? Some officers raised their hands. I ask the soldiers: Do you agree to help the people feel more secure? Raise your hands.

Perhaps there is a sound problem. They are not answering because they are at ease. The answer will come if we do this in military fashion; thus, we will ask them to stand at attention and give us the answer. I ask the officers to proceed in military fashion.

Officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers: If you feel like the Haitian people feel and believe that you can improve security in the country, raise your hands so I can see. Thank you! Good job! Congratulations! Well done! [applause]

The interim commander in chief just said yes. You also have said yes. Let me again ask the young people in the audience if they will agree to help by opening your eyes to the need for more security in the country. Raise your hands so I can see. Thank you!

This is a simple but important gesture. Although Haiti is poor and miserable, the biggest sickness it suffers from now is insecurity. This is why all of you—the forces of order and all of us, Haitian people—are joining hands in a cooperative effort to fight insecurity in accordance with the law, without violence, without revenge, in reconciliation, so that we can enjoy security day and night. [applause]

Haitian people: I once again thank the multinational forces, particularly the U.S. forces, on your behalf. They have been helping us to restore peace and order and to live safely since 19 September. However, I, the president of the Republic of Haiti, have noted that insecurity is also a source of worry, especially for the businessmen, the people who have small businesses, the people who have big businesses in both the countryside and the

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cities. Everyone in Haiti—not just those living in Port-au-Prince—needs security. If today's ceremony helps bring more security to the country, we will then be able to say that our ancestors did not fight in vain because it is the same courage that has prompted us to unite so there can be complete security nationwide. The police must do their job as required by the Constitution so there can be security in the country. Unfortunately, we do not yet have all the necessary means for the police to provide all the security that it wants provide.

"Article 269.1 of our Constitution says: The police force guarantees public order and protects the lives and property of citizens."

The police are there to protect everybody's right to live in peace. The police must protect the lives and property of all citizens.

"Article 271 says: [Word indistinct] has created a police academy and school whose organization and function are determined by the law."

We have not yet had that. We are working toward it, and we wish to thank the international community on its show of solidarity through implementation of UN Resolution 940. The UN Mission in Haiti [MINUHA] will help set up a police academy to ensure that the level of security that we are talking about will be realized through police work.

The police department incorporates the prison, fire, traffic control, main roads, criminal investigation, antinarcotics, and anti-black market services. The police department's role is to help the Justice Department track down those people who break the law, those people who commit offenses, those people who commit crimes. The police department has the authority to arrest those people. We must consider just how important a good police force and academy will be to Haiti. We must think of our country's future. We must remember that it will be our responsibility to ensure order and security once the international community leaves. It is important that I raise this issue with you, the Haitian youth, today, for you might be part of the new police force that we are organizing.

Would any of the young people here like to be a good policeman and ensure order? The answer is spontaneous. It comes from your heart, just as when you skip rope. Bravo! [applause]

When you are part of a new police force, will you have weapons to kill? [crowd's response indistinct]

Will you have weapons to protect life? [crowd answers: Yes!]

Will you have weapons to make people happy? [crowd answers: Yes!]

Will you have weapons to make everyone feel at ease? [crowd answers: Yes!]

If you had a pistol in your hand, would you not be tempted to kill sometimes? [crowd answers: No!]

You might be tempted. [crowd answers: No!]

Should you give in to temptation? [crowd answers: No!]

No. Weapons must be used to protect life. Weapons must not be used to kill people. We congratulate everyone who instills those beautiful values. They protect people and life when they carry weapons. They do not kill. We encourage all of Haiti's young people to remember that they do not have to wait to become part of a police force to take steps to protect life. They are mandated right now to protect and respect life.

Did our ancestors want to live? Did our ancestors fight for their lives in the country? [crowd answers: Yes!]

Do you also want to fight for your lives in the country? [crowd answers: Yes!]

What kind of a fight will you stage? Dog-eat-dog? [crowd answers: No!]

Fighting one another? Killing one another? [crowd answers: No!]

What kind of a fight? Tell me so I can hear. [crowd's response indistinct]

Fight with violence, is that right? [crowd answers: No!]

A fight for reconciliation? [crowd answers: Yes!]

Very well. When you do that, you show that there is a future for Haiti. When you do that, you encourage victims of insecurity to have hope and strength because they see that things will get better. Our police force will be able to change the face of Haiti: We will no longer feel insecure. Security will come from the efforts that every Haitian is making from the classroom to the future police force, from the mountains and the cities to the capital.

When we look at the Constitution, we see that all citizens are obliged to prepare themselves. All Haitian citizens are obliged to participate in this cooperative action on behalf of respect for life. Listen, Article 52.1 says: A true citizen must manage so he can always do what he must for the government and the people in the way he behaves, in the way he serves his country, in the way he cooperates with other people in the country, and in the way he conducts his financial affairs.

First, he must respect the Constitution and the country's flag. Second, he must respect the law. Third, he must respect taxes, so he must pay taxes. Fourth, he must defend his country in case of war. He must try to learn, and to increase his knowledge. Then, he must participate in cleaning up the country. He must protect the land and what surrounds it. He must be sensitive to the way the state's money is being used. He must respect other

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people's property. He must work so everybody can live in peace. He must always be ready to help when people are in danger.

The storm, Hurricane Gordon, caused damage and victims. We thank all those who have helped the victims, while we keep offering condolences to their parents and friends, while we encourage FADH members, members of the interim police force, and civilians to cooperate with the government to soften the misery of the victims.

It is in this same spirit, in this spirit, that each Haitian should assume his responsibility by contributing to respect for life, a respect for everyone's rights, and by which we will still carry on with some articles of the Constitution, such as Article 36, which stipulates: People may have private property. The government must protect those rights.

We have received many complaints of people who do not respect human rights and who have built [houses] where they should not have. Article 36 compels us to think so we—the government that is cooperating with the private sector and moving hand in hand with the international community—can find out how we can manage to build houses for the homeless so that when the law prevents them from building somewhere, they can see where they are going to live. The government and several people in the private sector have already held meetings to discuss this, and I hope that before long, we will come back to this great project because we are aware of our responsibilities as both government and Haitian citizens. In relation to the misery being experienced by the homeless, they are unfortunately sometimes sold illegal portions of land. They are victimized because they build [houses] where they should not. The Ministry of Justice and the Port-au-Prince City Hall are working seriously to find a solution to this problem.

We also know that respecting life is respecting everyone's rights. If there is not a job for someone in a country, he must ask himself why. If I asked the students who are here, without trying to put them on the spot, Are your parents working? I am sure that many of them would feel ill-at-ease to answer publicly. That is why I am not going to ask the question. But I am sure that the parents of many of you are not working and would like to get a job. [applause]

Are there many people in the country who need a job? [Crowd noise] When someone does not have a job, does he not feel that he is losing his dignity? [Crowd: yes]. We Haitian people with self-respect, when we do not have a job, we feel embarrassed. Article 35 of the Constitution stipulates that every citizen must have a job that pleases him so that he can take responsibility for himself and his family. All state employees, according to the same article, even non-state employees, must receive a decent salary. [Crowd noise]

It is indeed tough when we consider the small salary that state employees earn. I came to tell you: If our ancestors fought for life, the government today, in remembering 18 November 1803, is making efforts to work faster to create jobs. We held two meetings with the Council of Ministers, during both of which we discussed the employment and security problems. We are thus pursuing our efforts in that regard. If I ask school students: Do your parents have trouble paying for you? I am certain that many of them would say yes, not to mention the number of young people who cannot even go to school. Article 32.3 of the Constitution provides for all children to go to elementary school. The law provides for punishment if it is not done. The state must give elementary students free books and other materials with which to learn. The state must therefore be able to open free schools so that all parents can feel relieved. We are working on that. We must succeed in doing it because it is a duty provided by the Constitution. How beautiful it will be if all the young people here can witness that before the end of their studies, many state schools will be open, free to students. How long do you think it will take for this dream to come true? [Crowd noise]. A year, two years, three years? [Crowd noise] How long do you think it will take to have a free school in Haiti? [Crowd noise] Right now, or later? [Crowd noise] Is it easy to do it now? [Crowd noise] There are some yesses and some no's. [Crowd noise] Would you like school to be free right now? [Crowd answers: yes]. But, is it easy? [Crowd answers: no]. It is not easy. Eighty-five percent of the people in the country cannot go to school. The government is aware of its responsibilities and is working little by little to pave the way for a free school in Haiti.

I was very touched a while ago when one of you spoke of youth's dreams. Those dreams include a country with free school for all. We are aware of that. I will end by recalling the provision of Article 18 stipulating that every Haitian is equal before the law. It is not easy to realize a state of law, where every Haitian feels that his rights are respected, and all are equal before the law. But we know that even if it is not easy, it is possible. A great philosopher named Socrates said during his time that nothing is ever too difficult for youth.

Yes, the more we study our ancestors, the more we study the courage of Clerveau, the courage of Capois-la-Mort, the more today, 18 November 1994, we will achieve making what is difficult less difficult.

I know it is not easy to wake up tomorrow morning in Port-au-Prince or in the provinces. Everyone agrees there is no more insecurity. Because there are people who, the more they observe that the task for reconciliation is being accomplished, the more they attempt to create insecurity in order to prevent the reconciliation machine from going fast. I am here to tell them that I am sorry for them, they are mistaken. The reconciliation machine is working and will continue to run fast.

Some people have trucks, money, and weapons to organize at night [passage indistinct] ...to still feel that it is urgent for us to make the reconciliation machine run

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faster on the road to justice. It must be done because if it is not done, there will be no life and we will not be able to speak about respecting life since there will be no life. There must be reconciliation, justice and as such there will be life, life that we must respect.

On 18 November 1803, our ancestors died for that. They died so we could live in peace, in reconciliation, in justice. On 18 November 1994, we decided to offer our lives to the respect for everyone's rights, to respect for the Constitution, to paving the way for the formation of a good police force so insecurity can disappear and security can be established, so we can live in peace.

I would again like to thank the international community for its help. As I said since 19 September, you are here with us, and today we are delighted to continue working with you because we are sure that with you, there is no way we can miss our goal. The goal is a state of law, a country where we will be living as citizens, complementing a New World Order. The goal is reconciliation, peace, and respect for every single citizen. So, those who would like to [word indistinct] of moving faster, we say: Yes, we want to, and with you we can move faster. There is no doubt: We are proud to be Haitians. We are proud to work with you. We are proud to build this new Haiti which is part of the New World Order. We will succeed. We are already on our way.

All of you Haitians living in the tenth department who worked very hard for Haiti to be beautiful, we are happy to hold your hand despite the distance so that together we can make everyone see that it is possible to rebuild a country. It has been a month and three days since we returned. We are already on our way and have moved many km. Within two, three, four months, before we finish our mandate, we will still have time to hold elections. We will hold presidential elections and then the beautiful dream that not a drop of blood will be shed in the country will hopefully come true, before the transfer of power when the time comes.

I will not end without repeating what is the most important point in today's message: security. We must respect life in order to have security. We must respect everyone's rights. We must respect the law in order to have reconciliation. We must walk hand in hand with the military, working for peace, and with the temporary police force until the young people help to select a new police force, to ensure that no blood is shed in the country.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide calls on those of you who feel they want to make the security machine move slowly to ask for a meeting with him. He will listen to you. He will hear your voices. He will democratically meet with you so you do not keep sabotaging the good work that is being done. I am the president of all of you. I want to listen to your voices. But you must listen to my voice as well. That is why—**with respect, with dialogue, with the willingness to walk with each Haitian—I have come once again to deliver this message that reflects our pride, our dignity, pride and dignity to live in dialogue through reconciliation so peace can reign.**

I rely on the good will of each Haitian. Together with the international community, the prime minister, and the government, we will make everybody happy because they will see that 18 November 1994 is the daughter of 18 November 1803. The year 1803 gave us life; 1994 will give us more life. As usual, I will not end the message without a mandate from the youth. They will give me that mandate through their answers to my questions. Is the sun too hot on your heads? [crowd answers: yes.] Would you like a sun of security hotter than this sun? [crowd's answer indistinct] Would you like a sun of reconciliation hotter than this sun? [Crowd answers: yes.] Would you like a sun of progress hotter than this sun? [Crowd answers: yes] Should we fight and live in conflict to have it? [Crowd answers: no] Do you agree to walk hand in hand with one another? [Crowd answers: yes]

For example, do you believe you can hold the hand of the little friend who is beside you. Try to hold his hand so I can see. Would you not like me to hold the hand of the prime minister as well? [Crowd answers: yes] You would like that? [Crowd answers: yes] The prime minister is a nice guy, too. I am going to hold his hand so you can see. Look at that. Good!

The new Haiti, the new generation. Would you not like me to hold the hand of the interim commander in chief? [Crowd answers: yes] He is a nice guy, too. I am going to hold his hand. You are going to see that. Good! Good! Symbolically, I invite all of you to hold one another's hands to show how you are moving in unity, hand in hand. [applause]

While you hold one another's hands, I invite you to sing: Dear Haiti, there is no country nicer than you. If you are working to respect life, this means you are working so Haiti can become more attractive. Good! [Brass band plays the song, "Dear Haiti, there is no country nicer than you"]

[Aristide, singing] I should have left you so I could understand your value. I should have left you so I could appreciate you and really feel all that you are to me. [stops singing]

We are going to resume it: Dear Haiti. [sings] Dear Haiti, there is no country nicer than you. I should have left you so I could understand your value. I should have left you so I could appreciate you and really feel all [break in transmission].

Likewise, we want to also offer flowers of life to the international community, to walk together toward reconciliation, the respect that we can rebuild [words indistinct] Haiti. I invite Ambassador Swing to accept these flowers as an expression of our willingness to walk with the international community so that peace can prevail and security, here in our country. [crowd noise] [applause]

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The last flowers will be offered to the memory of all the military who died before 1803, leading up to the assassination of Captain Fritz Pierre-Louis. It is a gesture of commemoration because we have not forgotten them. Let us keep their memory alive [words indistinct] so we can work toward security in the country. That is why they died and [words indistinct]. We will not forget the other people who died in the country—those who were killed by Tropical Storm Gordon, those who were shot, such as Father Jean-Marie Vincent, Guy Malary, Antoine Izmery, and all the others who I did not name. It is to your memory that we are offering these flowers. [break in transmission]...receiving the flowers. I will hold them for those who dies while all together we work like them to establish peace. [Words indistinct] Alone we are weak, together we are strong; tightly united, we are lavalas. [Yon sel nou feb, ansam nou fo, ansam, ansam, nou se lavalas]

Bahamas Defense Force, Police Representatives Visit

FL1811155794 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Representatives of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force and the police unit recently traveled to Haiti to visit local troops stationed in that Caribbean nation. As Tamika Newbold reports, while in Haiti officials also discussed assistance for the replacement [as heard] of Haitian nationals to their homeland.

[Begin Newbold recording] Commodore Leon Smith of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force recently paid a visit to the troops stationed in the Republic of Haiti. Haiti is still struggling to recover from the ravages of military dominance. Commodore Smith visited the Bahamian peacekeepers who are a part of a massive United Nations contingent. He also attended the Caricom [Caribbean Community] military leaders conference in Jamaica.

The conference, which began on November 6 and lasted for four days, addressed affairs relating to deployment of Caricom forces in Haiti and also sought to provide an orientation for the military chiefs on the tasks which lie ahead for these troops. Several Caribbean military leaders and police commissioners traveled to Haiti on November 7, where they toured various military camps in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien. The group was also briefed on all aspects of the post military operation, training, and administration.

The Caricom contingent is presently stationed in Haiti's capital, where it provides mobile and foot patrols and other security duties within the port and up to a two kilometer radius outside the port. According to reports, the Caricom troops have provided secure repatriation for over 6,000 returning Haitians, of which nearly 500 originated from the Bahamas.

One of the issues that was reportedly discussed at the Caricom conference was the redeployment of the Caricom troops to the north coast city of Cap-Haitien, where they will work closely with international monitors. If the planned move is agreed upon by the various governments, the battalion is expected to begin relocating by mid-November, and it should be entrenched in the new location long before the rotation date of December 15.

I'm Tamika Newbold for ZNS News. [end recording]

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20,000 March in Chiapas To Back Civic Strike

PA1911154494 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Report by Javier Cruz de la Fuente; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Main businesses remained closed in San Cristobal, Comitan, Ocosingo, Palenque, Pichucalco, and Simojovel to show support for the second day of a civic strike declared in Chiapas State.

San Cristobal was dead. No businesses, banks, or gas stations opened today, but there was a great deal of political heat. Approximately 20,000 people from municipalities in the Chiapas highlands marched through the main streets of San Cristobal to demand the restoration of the state of law in Chiapas and recognition of Eduardo Robledo Rincon as winner of the past state elections.

The march proceeded through the main thoroughfares of San Cristobal de las Casas, and contingents of demonstrators from (Tepantelo), Oxchuc, (Laraiz), San Juan Chamula, (Miconxit), and others locations chanted slogans demanding respect for the will of the people of Chiapas as expressed on 21 August at the polls, when Eduardo Robledo Rincon was elected governor of Chiapas.

The two-hour march concluded with a meeting at Cathedral Plaza, where many people took the podium to speak, including the presidents of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] municipal committees in the highlands. In sum, they demanded full recognition of the people's will expressed at the polls. They demanded respect for the vote of Chiapas residents, who have already elected their governor of Chiapas State for the next six years.

As the marchers went by the Diocesan Office of San Cristobal de las Casas, a group of demonstrators chanted: What does San Cristobal want? Others responded: For Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia to go away.

A demonstrator who refused to identify himself said they are tired of the bishop's manipulation of politics in Chiapas. Placido Humberto Dominguez, president of the PRI State Committee in Chiapas, commented on the political heat and Eduardo Robledo Rincon as governor of Chiapas:

[Begin Dominguez recording] The people of Chiapas, who made the 21 August elections possible, held elections in hopes of attaining peace through votes. They do not deserve to be dragged into confrontation by those who don't know to recognize the fact that they lost at the polls.

The people of Chiapas deserve peace, work, and the welfare of all families. That is what Chiapas Governor-elect Eduardo Robledo Rincon will offer and deliver. He was elected by most Chiapas residents. [end recording]

That was an excerpt of statements by Placido Humberto Morales Vasquez [name as heard], PRI leader in Chiapas, when commenting on rumors that Robledo Rincon may resign to allow the designation of an acting governor in Chiapas. He said Chiapas residents have already elected their governor, Eduardo Robledo Rincon, adding that the votes of Chiapas citizens will be respected.

At 1800 today, commercial activity and public transportation were resumed in Chiapas. Gas stations have also reopened, thus ending the second civic strike in various municipalities of Chiapas to demand the restoration of the state of law, which is practically destroyed in Chiapas.

Approximately 20,000 marchers from Chiapas municipalities demonstrated in San Cristobal. The march was peaceful with only verbal attacks against Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia. While passing by the Archbishopric's Office, some individuals chanted slogans against the bishop.

Security Forces, Indians Clash; 14 Injured

PA2011214894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2043 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, 20 Nov (AFP)—According to several sources, clashes between policemen and Indians in San Cristobal de las Casas and Comitan, both in Chiapas, today left a provisional and unofficial total of 14 people injured.

The clash in Comitan, which left four injured, one of them with gunshot wounds, occurred when approximately 200 members of the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations [CEOIC] were attacked by security forces.

The police fired teargas bombs and guns to dissolve a demonstration of indians who had blocked a road leading to Comitan, one CEOIC source said.

In San Cristobal de las Casas, Indians and the police threw rocks at each another during a demonstration by Indians; 10 people were injured.

The station Radio Red reported from San Cristobal de las Casas that 14 people were injured by rocks and that "the situation has become difficult" because the police "have taken up positions at the municipal building" and that "both groups keep provoking each other."

The Indians marched to a square where they expected to hear Amado Avendano, former candidate for governor for the center-leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], who several days ago called the people to prevent Eduardo Robledo from assuming office.

Robledo, of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] and who officially won the August elections, is scheduled to be sworn in as governor in Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital city of Chiapas state, on 8 December.

It has also been reported that in other Chiapas cities there is tension over the peasants' demonstrations to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the beginning of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1921).

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Indians Try To Take Municipal Buildings

PA2111041894 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0257 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] There were disturbances in several communities of Chiapas today, including San Cristobal de las Casas, Comitan, and, of course, Tuxtla Gutierrez. We are in communication with reporter Maricarmen Camacho. Maricarmen, what happened over there?

[Maricarmen] Hello, Rosy and listeners. In the main square of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas peasant members of PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] this morning brought down the metal barriers that had been erected to protect the CEOIC [State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations] Indians, who have been on a sitdown strike for several weeks. In addition, the Chiapas PRD members destroyed more than 20 chairs owned by the strikers.

The incidents occurred in this capital city when more than 3,000 marchers threw themselves against the police and destroyed the metal barriers and everything in front of them. The peasants warned that they will occupy the government building on 8 December, when governor-elect Eduardo Robledo is scheduled to be sworn in. In a communique, the state government says that today's protests in several places of the state were marked by the movement of groups who sought to clash with security forces.

In Ocosingo, the government's radio station was occupied for a short time by the peasants, who aired a message to Indian communities in their dialect. In Tapachula, some 400 PRD activists damaged a privately owned radio station. In Palenque, a march occurred uneventfully. In Tuxtla Chico, on the coast of Chiapas, PRD activists reportedly continue to occupy the municipal president's office. In Salto de Agua, a municipality in the north of the state, PRD activists occupied the municipal president's office. The premises were voluntarily vacated later.

In its communique, the governor's office reports that a highway was blocked somewhere near Ixtapa, close to the capital city of Chiapas. This highway links the state capital with the northern area. The police never fired their weapons and instead strictly obeyed instructions not to open fire on anyone. Several policemen were taken hostage and disarmed, but were later released. It has also been reported that three policemen have been injured in San Cristobal de las Casas and Comitan.

As you commented earlier, Rosy, these were very violent actions by the PRD in Chiapas. This was expected because it had already been announced. The peasants have said they will take the government building in the capital city of Chiapas on 8 December.

[Announcer] Fellow newsman Javier Cruz de la Fuente is in San Cristobal de las Casas. Come in, Javier. We have one minute.

[De la Puente] Good evening, Rosy. The protests in Chiapas today were violent. There were demonstrations in Tuxtla Gutierrez, San Cristobal de las Casas, Tapachula, Comitan, Palenque, and Ocosingo. The demonstrators acted with violence against the state's public offices. In Tuxtla Gutierrez, approximately 1,200 people rallied at the central square at 1400 hours, and, after shouting slogans, tore down the metal barriers that had been istalled to protect the CEOIC sitdown strikers. As for San Cristobal de las Casas, Comitan, and Ocosingo, this is Rodolfo Ulloa Flores, secretary of the Chiapas government.

[Begin Ulloa Flores recording] The demonstrators attempted to take the municipal building by setting fire to one of the doors and firing their guns. The police were forced to repel the attackers with tear gas grenades. [end recording]

Marcos Calls Salinas 'Madman,' Threatens Uprising

PA2011033594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0318 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Aguascalientes, Mexico, 18 Nov (DPA)—Subcommander Marcos, the main strategist of the Zapatist guerrillas in Chiapas, harshly criticized President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, calling the outgoing president a madman.

The leader of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] said "Mr. Salinas de Gortari shows unmistakable signs of lunacy." The rebel made this statement in a speech yesterday marking the 11th anniversary of the rebel Indian group, which rose up in arms on 1 January.

Responding to a recent comment by the Mexican president criticizing the left-wing opposition, "Marcos" said: "Showing pathological symptoms of acute schizophrenia, (Salinas) said he can neither see nor hear reality." Salinas de Gortari is to end his term in office on 1 December.

The ideologist and spokesman for the guerrillas also criticized himself strongly, admitting he had committed "many mistakes," which he blamed in part on his "excesses as a celebrity." Marcos leads the Zapatist troops in their positions somewhere in the Lacandona jungle, which the EZLN calls Aguascalientes.

"Marcos," who hides his identity behind a woolen face mask, said: "As for the EZLN, we could say we have made many mistakes. Some of them stem from our political clumsiness, ignorance, and the limitations of our armed uprising, which is faceless and cornered."

He assured that the Zapatist forces are ready to go to war as soon as they receive the order from their leaders. The charismatic guerrilla warned that "the war is not yet over, brothers, it has jut begun."

As the danger of a new armed uprising grows, despite the 12 January cease-fire, the subcommander said that "Zapatist weapons are ready to rise in the mountains in

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the north of Mexico, the northwest, the south, the east, and the central regions of our country."

President-Elect Seeks 'Better' Ties With PRD

PA1811214094 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Nov 94 pp 1, 8

[Article by Martin Vargas and Hilario Monroy A.]

[FBIS Translated Text] President-elect Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon said yesterday he wants a different and better relationship with the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], because Mexico needs that political institution since it is a national leftist force that won political support in the last elections with an effort. In a private meeting held with the coordinators of the five parties represented at the Assembly of Representatives, Dolores Padierna from the PRD said her party wants to initiate a dialogue with the new government in a framework of respect for the balance of power. She made five political and administrative demands on the president-elect.

During the meeting held in her offices south of the city, which lasted about an hour and to which the media did not have access, Zedillo Ponce de Leon talked about the importance of exchanging proposals between the legislators and the executive branch so as to achieve a better mutual understanding. He pointed out that the current Assembly of Representatives of the Federal District is a historic one because of its new powers.

According to a PRD communique issued at the Assembly of Representatives and distributed last night by the Media General Directorate of that legislative body, the president-elect said the Federal District must have a head of government, elected by direct vote, but it depends on a democratic process that must be constructed from below.

Likewise, Zedillo said democracy and the relationship between the political parties and the executive branch are essential. The participation of citizens is important in finding appropriate solutions. Zedillo said that is why he will not seek arbitrary solutions.

He said the citizen councils that will be elected next year should not be just for appearance, because they would be no good for the government or for citizens. They must strengthen their social administrative duties and exercise their town council duties with democracy and responsibility.

He added that the government is no more powerful or effective "by having all the strings." We must trust others, because if there is responsibility, things will come out better than if power is concentrated.

Finally, the president-elect said he hopes the Assembly of Representatives will draft a democratic law that can help solve the city's problems in the areas of public service, use of grounds, and street peddling, among others.

Manuel Jimenez Guzman, president of the Government Commission of the Assembly of Representatives of the Federal District, said the meeting with the president-elect is a clear demonstration of the political commitment to hold an open and frank dialogue with all political forces and ideological currents of the country.

Jimenez, who is also leader of the PRI group in that legislative body, said it is important for the country's democratic life to strengthen the party system without hurting the diversity of ideas and pluralism, which will be achieved through a consensus-building effort.

Dolores Padierna said in her statements that her party agreed to attend the meeting with the condition that it would be more than just a courtesy visit "given that our intentions are to initiate a necessary dialogue in the framework of respect for a balance of power."

She said that the PRD legislative group at the Assembly of Representatives, after learning of Zedillo's proposals, is interested in reviewing the Federal District's reform policy, because it is a fundamental part of the national agenda.

The PRD leader made the following demands on Zedillo Ponce de Leon:

- We want the next citizen council elections at the Federal District to be clear-cut, honest, and fair.
- These elections should set the example for the drafting of an exemplary election policy.
- This will be the first legislative period of the third Assembly of Representatives and for it to appropriately carry out its new mission it requires a budget that can fully guarantee its operation; we hope the executive branch, when submitting the draft budget, will bear this in mind.
- Dr. Zedillo, we conceive modernity at all levels and we hope that the modernity of the political apparatus can consolidate a system of parties that can facilitate their alternation in power.
- Finally, we hope the six-year period that will soon be initiated, will open up political pluralism in our society.
- Also present in the meeting were: Jorge Emilio Gonzalez Martinez from the Green Ecologist Party of Mexico; Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas from the National Action Party; and Francisco Gonzalez Gomez, from the Labor Party.

The legislators agreed to meet periodically with the president-elect.

Following the meeting, the president-elect left Padierna's offices in Cuicuilco headed for the Association of Mexican Civil Engineers, where he held another private meeting with deputies and senators of the PAN.

Legislative Blocs Reject U.S. Blockade of Cuba

PA2011171094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 18 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Mireya Cuellar and Ricardo Aleman]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The four blocs in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday supported Cuba and the vote at the United Nations, for the third consecutive year, to approve a resolution in favor of lifting the blockade against this Caribbean country.

Legislator Oscar Gonzalez Yanez presented a statement on behalf of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], PAN [National Action Party], PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], and PT [Labor Party]. It reads: "Although the blockade is repudiated by many governments, organizations of the most diverse ideological orientation, and by important political, cultural, and religious figures all over the world, the isolation policy against the island continues to be a violation of the UN agreements." All this is taking place, the declaration reads, while the Cuban people are making great efforts to build their own destiny.

Thus the political parties represented at the 56th legislative period joined the vote by the United Nations and national and international opinion against the blockade.

They also called all people in Mexico who are opposed to the blockade against Cuba to accept the summons to the World Solidarity Encounter with this country that will be held in Havana from 21 to 25 November.

Agrarian Council Rejects Proposition 187

PA2011044694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 18 Nov 94 p 42

[Resolution issued by the Permanent Agrarian Council in Mexico City; date not given—passages within boldface as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Concerning Proposition 187**

To the Public Opinion

The Permanent Agrarian Council [CAP], in light of the approval of Proposition 187, which restricts education, social services, and medical attention for illegal immigrants and deprives the children of immigrants who are born in California of their U.S. citizenship and which forces professors and doctors to report alleged immigrants, as well as U.S. citizens to carry an identity card, expresses its reiterated opposition to every norm or action to violate or disavow universal human rights.

These years, it has been made clear that every reform, every modernization attempt involves costs and sacrifices. Nevertheless, the state and other sectors must join this effort and sacrifice in a framework of equality and justice to overcome historical backwardness, with a reorientation of economic policy to benefit those who have less.

Most emigrants come from rural areas. Within the country, they move to urban areas seeking improved housing and employment, which is often insufficient in urban areas. And outside the country, they have no securities or stability because of their conditions and remoteness. That is why the government, private, and peasant organizations must create effective mechanisms to generate productive employment and honorable living conditions in the emigrants' places of origin.

Given the above, the CAP:

1. Rejects the approval and application of Proposition 187, which disavows basic universal human rights. We support social groups in the United States that have filed suit asking that this initiative be declared unconstitutional.

2. Calls for a government-to-government international solution and for strengthening diplomatic means to find a solution and define specific measures to normalize the situation of illegal immigrants.

3. Calls for the implementation of appropriate actions so that this experience can be assimilated broadly and each party can assume its responsibility. It asks that NAFTA negotiations be reopened to include the issue of workers and immigrants, in order to define measures that help in the mobility of workers.

4. State peasant organizations reserve the right to express ourselves in the short, medium, and long term, through whatever means we deem convenient, to confront Proposition 187 and seek long-term alternatives to benefit the Mexican population, particularly the rural population. We call for a broad mobilization of protest and rejection against this proposition.

5. Believes that its call **for rural development with justice and liberty** contributes to seek basic solutions and further harmonize a modernization process we all pursue with justice and liberty.

6. Asks the Mexican Government, based on respect for U.S. sovereignty, to endorse juridical procedures to challenge Proposition 187.

7. Asks the Mexican Goverment to state its position against this law in international forums and organizations. The CAP particularly asks the Mexican Government to convene a special meeting at the United Nations and OAS to examine the problem of Latin American emigrants in the United States; similar procedure must be adopted before the ORIT [Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers].

Responsible for the publication: Federico Ovalle Vaquera, coordinator.

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El Salvador

President, Mexico's Zedillo Discuss Talks

PA1911011594 San Salvador Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Statements to the media by President Armando Calderon Sol and Mexican President-elect Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon following a meeting at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zedillo] Distinguished President of El Salvador, Dr. Armando Calderon Sol; distinguished Mrs. Calderon Sol; ladies and gentlemen of the media: Today, I began in San Salvador my first visit abroad as Mexican president-elect. I intend raising the level of my country's relations with all Central American nations. Our cultural, historic, and linguistic ties are complemented today by a significant advance in democracy in our countries. I am convinced that this region of the world will enter the new millennium with increasingly dynamic and better integrated economies, with a better balance between development and population growth, and with a rich and a diverse culture that will allow us to face the challenges of the 21st century with originality and optimism.

Over the last few years Mexico has shared with the Salvadoran people a common wish for peace and solidarity. The Mexican people are honored that the peace accords were signed in Mexico City. President Calderon and I agree that our fraternal relations should continue intensely through cooperation, solidarity, and increased trade between our two countries.

I have given assurances to the president that my government will not only continue, but will increase and reinforce cooperation with El Salvador. This will take place in the exchanges that we will mutually agree upon. In the talks I have held with the president, we exchanged points of view on the steps we need to take to sign a free trade agreement between Mexico, the three northern countries, and Central American countries. I have reiterated Mexico's interest in this treaty, and these talks have clarified that Mexico also wishes that any trade agreement that includes El Salvador should also include other trade agreements that El Salvador is working on with other Central American nations. In any event, any trade agreement should work in favor and not against Salvadoran economic interests.

It has been very encouraging for me to listen to President Calderon's reflections regarding prospects for Central American integration, not only those that deal with the economy, but also those that deal with political issues. We also discussed certain means that will make it possible to increase our cooperation in fields such as education, technical cooperation, and infrastructure. We have found that there are enormous possibilities to increase this kind of cooperation.

President Calderon Sol and I reviewed in our talks some of the consequences of Proposition 187, which was approved in California a few days ago. We agreed that its likely implementation would harm the human rights and labor rights of Mexican and Salvadoran citizens who are living in that U.S. state. To this end, we agreed to encourage close communications and cooperation between the two countries to do everything within our reach to defend the human and labor rights of our fellow nationals living in the United States. We even spoke about maintaining an open channel of communications to coordinate Mexican and Salvadoran consular affairs in the United States to protect the labor and human rights of our fellow countrymen.

Moreover, I told President Calderon that my government will remain alert to protect and defend the human rights of Salvadorans living in our country. We know there is a flow of migrants to Mexico as they wind their way toward the United States. I now admit that the treatment given on certain occasions to Salvadoran citizens in our country has left much to be desired. This treatment sometimes has violated human rights of those who cross our country in their effort to enter the United States. My government will make the necessary efforts to prevent such unacceptable violations. We think these violations are unacceptable for our fellow nationals living in the United States, and this is why we cannot and must not accept violations of basic human rights of Salvadorans in Mexico because of corruption or abuse. We emphatically promised this to Mr. President Calderon. I am sure the next few years will be characterized by closeness, friendship, and respectful collaboration between El Salvador and Mexico.

I am truly pleased to begin this tour in this country dearly loved by all Mexicans. Thank you very much, Mr. President. [applause]

[Unidentified speaker] Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, president of El Salvador, it is your turn.

[Calderon] President Zedillo and Mrs. Zedillo, we are truly pleased and honored to welcome you here and to know this is the first country the two of you are visiting on your historic journey. You are making this visit to Central America just a few days before taking on the huge responsibility of guiding the fate of Mexico.

I want to express to you our gratitude for this visit and to tell you that El Salvador will always be your good friend and admirer. We are men and women thankful for what Mexico has done to help us Salvadorans achieve harmony and peace. That historic agreement signed in Chapultepec brought about peace and calm in El Salvador. I believe we will never forget this fact, and we will never be able to fully repay the cooperation the Mexican people gave the Salvadoran people.

As you have already said, Mr. Zedillo, we sincerely talked about the issues you already mentioned. I believe I must thank you for the courage with which you have

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recognized the problems Salvadorans are facing in the Mexican countryside en route to the United States. I believe that acknowledging this fact with such a courage, along with your firm commitment to respect the human rights of Salvadorans, has won you a place in the heart of the Salvadoran people. I thank you, because it is an issue we discussed and an issue you mentioned to the media in a courageous and acceptable manner. I want to thank you on behalf of the Salvadoran people.

In addition, I believe the channels must remain open for this cooperation to be valid. We must make decisions as brotherly people on laws such as Proposition 187, which violates the human rights of our fellow countrymen in the state of California. We are certain this law will be repealed. We trust and believe in the institutions of the United States. We also have faith in international agreements, and we hope that this law will have no bad effects. Nevertheless, we must exercise caution, just as you have said, President Zedillo. I believe we will continue to work on trade issues and to advance even further. We hope to continue to have this cooperation and aid in a resolute fashion. I am sure that, during this six-year term you are about to begin in Mexico, your government will be able to broaden even further the friendly and cooperative relations we currently have. Thank you very much, President Zedillo.

High Court Orders Villalobos Released From Prison

PA1911033694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2055 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] San Salvador, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador today decreed the release of former guerrilla Commander Joaquin Villalobos, who was imprisoned for a month on charges of slandering businessman Orlando De Sola, whom he linked to the "death squads."

The ruling in Villalobos' favor was issued by the Supreme Court of Justice's Constitutional Court, which stated in a resolution that the detention "was unconstitutional." Villalobos, 42, was jailed at the National Police's General Headquarters in this capital, and, according to judicial sources, he will be released today.

Guatemala

Sources: Trade, Peace Plans To Be Focus at Summit

PA1911194494 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2236 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Government sources said today that during the Summit of the Americas to be held in December in the United States, Guatemala will focus on signing a "realistic" action plan for increasing trade and investment and on support for the peace process with leftist guerrilla movements.

Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Martinez explained that trade is a "priority" issue for Guatemala and said that addressing development issues should be a basic "premise" of the hemispheric summit.

The high-ranking government official told ACAN-EFE that "the development issue has been frozen for 10 years," and it is urgent that we revisit it.

Martinez announced that other Latin American and Caribbean countries will bring similar positions to the summit. Martinez is responsible for everything pertaining to Guatamala's presentation at the summit, which will take place in Miami.

Equally important is the issue of continental support for the country's peace efforts. Guatemala has been struggling since 1960 with an armed conflict which, according to international organizations, has killed 150,000 people.

Bilateral talks between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity began in 1991, and a meeting is set for next week to continue discussing the identity and rights of the Indian population.

Guatemala has placed the issue of its Indian population on its agenda for the Miami meeting. Martinez said Guatemala believes this is a problem that goes beyond national boundaries and across the continent and the Caribbean.

Guatemalan Indians represent 60 percent of the total population. They are divided into ethnic groups, 23 of which descend from the Maya, one from the Garifunas, one from the Xincas, and some from the Latin population.

Meanwhile, Central America is trying to arrive at a common position, which they will discuss when their foreign ministers meet on 24 and 25 November in San Salvador.

The Central Americans plan to ask Washington to resubmit the Temporary Trade Program (PIC)for Congressional approval. The program benefits the region's exports to the United States.

They will also seek a signed commitment to provide funding for the so-called Alliance for Sustainable Development, an agreement signed by the presidents of the region in mid-October in Managua, Nicaragua, and backed by U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

At the beginning of the year, President Clinton offered to support the initiative, which focuses on environmental, economic, and social issues. Consequently, they hope it will be ratified along with the U.S.-Central American Agreement (Concausa), the deputy foreign minister added.

The Guatemalan deputy foreign minister believes the Summit of the Americas will mark a new phase in relations between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean.

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According to Martinez, this new phase will be marked by "specific action" in the fields of trade, investment, and cooperation among all nations in the hemisphere.

Defense Minister: Bamaca Case 'Manipulated'

PA1911035494 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The case of guerrilla Commander Efrain Bamaca Velasquez, also known as Commander Everardo, is being ideologically exploited internationally. The previous statement was made by the Defense Ministry, or rather by Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez while commenting on the recent hunger strike in Guatemala City by the insurgent's wife, U.S. citizen Jennifer Harbury.

[Begin recording] [Enriquez] The truth is that I feel that this case is being exploited for ideological reasons. Fortunately, there are very few cases left to be manipulated for what we could describe as political warfare—in other words, all of these ideological undertakings, all of the publicity campaigns, and all of the efforts involved in attracting public attention. There are very few cases left to manipulate. The Bamaca case, I believe, is one of the last, and they are making the most of it.

[Unidentified reporter] How many more cases such as this one are there?

[Enriquez] I hope there are no more, because subversion has no following here.

[Reporter] General, considering that Mrs. Harbury has decided to take this case to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, might this result in some type of penalty against Guatemala?

[Enriquez] I do not believe that penalties can be imposed against Guatemala because, first of all, all of her allegations are based on conjectures. There is not one shred of concrete evidence—nothing that can clearly support Ms. Harbury's accusations.

[Reporter] What steps should the country take?

[Enriquez] I believe we should not do anything and that, so far, we have proceeded properly by launching an in-depth investigation—an investigation ordered by the constitutional president of the Republic and carried out by the human rights ombudsman and the prosecutor general. As I said before, the Armed Forces are open to any investigation. Today I spoke to a high-ranking State Department official about the case and commented on the investigations that are taking place. I believe the Guatemalan Government is following the correct path.

[Reporter] General, could the military assistance received from Washington be jeopardized because of this case?

[Enriquez] Guatemala has not received any military assistance from the United States for a long time now. [end recording]

Ministry Dismisses Treasury Police Director

PA1711185094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2152 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government Ministry dismissed Treasury Police Director Justo Alfredo Cobar Montenegro today.

Deputy Director Jose Rodolfo Figueroa replaced Cobar at the institution, which is tasked with combating drug trafficking and contraband.

The Government Ministry did not reveal the reasons for the dismissal of Cobar Montenegro, who only said he will return to his private activities as a lawyer and notary.

Honduras

Reina, Zedillo Hold Joint News Conference

PA1911143194 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[News conference by President Carlos Roberto Reina and Mexican President-elect Ernesto Zedillo with unidentified reporters at the Presidency in Tegucigalpa—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reina] As Honduran president, I am very proud of this visit by the next president of Mexico. We have exchanged many ideas on topics of interest to both countries. We foresee a joint agenda for the upcoming Summit of the Americas, a high-level meeting from which so much is expected.

I have sincerely thanked the Mexican president-elect for the fraternal assistance Mexico has given us for a wide range of national activities. Mexico now has our gratitude, and they already had our admiration and solidarity in the struggle for the great values of democracy in America.

Mr. President-elect Don Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, please feel at home. The president of Honduras, in the name of his people, gives you a most fraternal welcome to this Central American country. [applause]

[Zedillo] Dr. Carlos Roberto Reina, president of the Republic of Honduras, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of my wife, my delegation, and myself, I thank you, President Reina, for your warm welcome. It not only confirms the generous character of the Honduran people but is a reflection of the friendship that has traditionally existed between our countries.

My visit to Honduras just a few days before taking office as Mexican president is intended to intensify dialogue

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and understanding between our countries, to explore new avenues of cooperation, and to seek the full development of our economic and political relations. I want to tell you, Mr. President, that Mexicans remember with special affection your visit to Mexico as president-elect in January 1994. Mexicans are awaiting you with open arms on 1 December, in view of your confirmation of attendance at my inauguration. Mexicans will also await you with open arms when you decide to make a state visit to our country.

The natural cordiality that characterizes our relations, as well as the frankness of our exchanges, open a very favorable prospect for greater rapprochement between our peoples and our governments. The talks we held this morning allow me to confirm the high degree of maturity and diversity that our bilateral relations have reached. It encouraged me very much that President Reina and I have pledged not only to continue these relations but to expand them to other fields.

Honduras and Mexico already cooperate in various fields, such as finance, energy, trade, and education. The president has highlighted the fact—and I thank him very much—that Mexico is cooperating with Honduras in energy matters with the installation of three plants that will be operational very soon.

This morning I told President Reina he could continue to count not only on Mexico's cooperation to overcome this energy crisis—which is about to be overcome, as he himself told me—but also on future construction plans such as that to build the energy infrastructure in Honduras. The opportunities we have to delve into new areas of improvement are as rich as our societies and cultures. The opportunities we offer businessmen, academicians, and scientists from both countries are proof of our potential. President Reina has expressed his political resolve, and I fully agree with it. We must continue to advance to meet our potential. We have discussed energy infrastructure issues as well as other infrastructure issues.

The president also discussed with me such tangible issues as the fight against cholera, which is something in which we Mexicans have gained experience over the last few years. I told him that the next Mexican administration will be fully determined to help his government fight this disease, which is now struck us.

As he already mentioned, we spoke about the summit that will begin in Miami on 9 December and discussed some issues of common interest which we believe are essential points of discussion at the summit [words indistinct] to listen to Mr. President talk about the so-called Proposition 187, which California recently approved, and to observe that our points of view concur. We agreed to discuss this issue at the Miami summit to express [words indistinct] the countries' sovereign decisions could justify their immigration laws, but this position must not undermine respect for the human and labor rights of immigrants, regardless of their legal status.

We also spoke about the advisability of bringing up the drug trafficking issue at the discussion table. This is something that is affecting many Latin American countries. President Reina and I agreed that the problem must be handled in a more global fashion, highlighting the responsibility of drug-consuming countries.

We also addressed the free trade issue, a foremost issue for our countries. I stressed to Mr. Reina the interest my government has in signing a free trade agreement with the Central American countries. I carefully listened to his concerns about the issue—concerns that are indeed worthy of consideration. I told him that although we want to sign a free trade agreement with Honduras, we do not want this agreement to undermine Central America's economic integration efforts. We will definitely respect the goals the Central American countries are setting for implementing their economic integration process. Honduras' role in the integration process is one reason why Mexico is expressing its solidarity and support. The peace and development initiative headed by President Reina's administration and his decision to promote sustainable development while simultaneously protecting the environment has set a guideline that deserves carefully consideration in order to implement it in other regions of the world. That is why I am offering the support of the next Mexican administration, as well as its cooperation, to imitate this significant initiative.

Mr. President, our governments' task will be to strengthen existing forms of cooperation and exchange and those that Honduras and Mexico may establish. I am convinced that this attitude will enhance the friendship and solidarity that has always existed between our countries.

[Reporter] I have a question for the host president and another for the president of my country. President Reina, could you comment on the effects of the recently approved Proposition 187 [words indistinct]—negative effects and the effects that, as the Mexican president-elect mentioned, undermine respect for human rights? It is time to revise our integration aspirations and readdress the relations our countries maintain [words indistinct]. We need to again follow a common path as one bloc with one voice. For the president of my country, the United States is contemplating the possibility of talks between you and President Clinton to reopen NAFTA negotiations and include migration issues. What is your opinion on this?

[Reina] During my very warm conversation with the Mexican president-elect, we both totally agreed that we disagree with Proposition 187. We disagree with the measure in principle, because to violate human rights is to take a step backward from all the great efforts man has made to achieve greater human dignity. To deny health and education to children would be truly deplorable and disastrous. We, the Central American presidents, are going to speak with the Mexican president and other chiefs of state in the Americas to make firm, vigorous

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efforts at the Miami summit to see that this resolution will not have the nefarious effects we have all seen.

[Zedillo] At my next meeting with President Clinton, I am sure we will broach the topic of Mexican migrant workers. We will undoubtedly discuss Proposition 187. In our talks, I will recognize the position maintained by the U.S. Government and President Clinton. I will express my recognition, because they have decided to follow the legal path for objecting to Proposition 187. However, in no way will I suggest—because it is not in the interests of our country—that NAFTA be renegotiated or reopened to address the immigration problem. This is a very important aspect of our bilateral relations and we will address it, but there is no reason to link it to NAFTA.

[Reporter] President Zedillo, Honduras lost some benefits regarding a refinery through the San Jose Agreement in 1992. Our country favors a reform of the San Jose agreement that would allow us to bring in the refined product. Does Mexico agree with this? Second, aside from the announcement you made regarding Mexico's interest in signing a free trade agreement with our country, there is a regional wish to have Central America join NAFTA, which was signed by Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Does Mexico agree with Central American membership? Do you think Central America will be in a position to compete and to remain in that market?

[Zedillo] Thank you. The president has told me about the San Jose agreement. He made me see that after the refinery closed, Honduras has not benefited from the San Jose agreement. He asked me to bring this topic up at the next meeting, which could be preceded by technical talks. I must mention, however, that at this time Mexico imports refined products as opposed to crude. This makes the treatment of crude and refined products somewhat uncertain. Nevertheless, it is a topic that we will discuss, as President Reina has requested. Depending on the circumstances, we may be able to reach a conclusion or some sort of agreement.

Regarding Central American countries joining the free trade agreement, our country has said for some time now, and I reiterate it as president-elect, that Mexico would look very favorably upon Central American countries and the remaining Latin American countries participating in a free trade agreement encompassing the entire American continent. When the time comes, Mexico will back the initiatives of Central American countries to negotiate this. Nevertheless, as I said a moment ago, we will fully respect the [word indistinct], the steps that the Central American countries themselves want to take regarding area integration matters.

[Reporter] Dr. Zedillo, the time has come for an attitude change in terms of our countries' political relationship in order to facilitate the changes that society requires. Do you share this intention to change this relationship? How would you propose that the change begin? Has the time come to stop treating one another as older and younger brothers?

[Reina] I want to tell you very sincerely that the change has already begun. The fact that we have jointly drafted an agenda to propose to all countries of America and the world is a change. Never before have there been summit meetings to plan a new paradigm for America that highlights the dignity of the people, deepening democracy, and the fight against corruption. At the Miami summit I will, on behalf of all countries of the continent, speak about the fight against corruption plus a series of approaches, not only in the fields of economy, culture, and international solidarity, but in every aspect.

Mexico has assumed the leadership of the continent, and that leadership has to become closer to Central American countries, which are already undergoing a very advanced integration process. I do not agree with bilateral trade. Central America should be bilateral with Mexico, or Central America with NAFTA, because five Central American countries are unable to compete on their own. A bloc of 30 million inhabitants will carry more weight, and an agreement with Mexico would have much more international acceptability.

[Zedillo] I was telling the president and the luncheon guests that we are very honored when our Central American brothers refer to Mexico as the older brother, but we Mexicans do not want to speak of younger or weaker brothers when discussing the political or economic relations that we want to expand with Central America. We Mexicans simply wish to refer to one another as brothers. We want a one-on-one relationship. We are talking about the relationship between sovereign countries in which we recognize the differences in development processes. The principle that should guide those relations, however, is that when we are dealing with Honduras or any other Central American country, we are dealing with an equal, and especially a sister country.

[Reporter] Mr. President-elect of Mexico, I am speaking on behalf of my fellow journalists in Honduran radio and television. We expect your visit of a few hours to be beneficial for the two countries. Mr. President, do you, as the new Mexican president, pledge to endorse the Tuxtla Gutierrez agreements signed by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on the establishment of a free trade zone between Central America and Mexico? In addition, the commercial balance between Honduras and Mexico is very unfavorable to Honduras. What could you do, Mr. President, to restore a favorable balance so Honduran products could more deeply penetrate the Mexican market?

[Zedillo] Thanks for your courtesy. We will fully endorse the agreements reached during the Tuxtla Gutierrez meeting. As it has been said here, trade is a very important subject. The intention to establish a free trade zone between Central America and Mexico still stands. As I said before, however, we will absolutely respect the

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time it will take the Central American countries to attain their integration as a bloc and later carry out a negotiation with Mexico. As has been the case with Costa Rica, we will heed a desire by any of these countries to strike a bilateral agreement. We fully respect the position presented by President Reina to create a group first and then negotiate with Mexico. We agree with this. The best way to improve the trade balance between Honduras and Mexico is to trade and exchange. We are open to any policy to stimulate the sale of Honduran products in our country. In addition, we will see to it that Bancomext [National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico] establishes the necessary financial mechanisms to facilitate Honduran exporters' access to the Mexican market. As soon as we revise the commercial relations between the two countries, we will surely find a way to improve them.

Panama

Zedillo: Mexico To Back Panama Joining NAFTA

PA2111035294 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Nov 94 p A-1

[Report by Cristobal A. Chen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico will support any efforts by Panama to join NAFTA, which was signed by the United States and Canada, Mexican President-elect Ernesto Zedillo said yesterday.

Zedillo told the local and international media that Mexico "will do nothing to impede Panama's joining NAFTA and that, at the proper time, Mexico will express approval of any request that Panama presents to Canada and the United States for this purpose."

Zedillo visited Panama for two hours and met with President Ernesto Perez Balladares at the latter's country house in Cerro Azul.

Zedillo said that Perez Balladares expressed Panama's interest in joining NAFTA on a medium-term basis. "There are two parallel ways whereby Panama can join NAFTA. One is by establishing a bilateral relationship between the two countries through a free trade agreement. The other is by joining NAFTA directly," Zedillo said.

Zedillo suggested that Panama should first initiate negotiations with Canada and the United States. "Then Mexico will express approval of the negotiations," he added.

In addition, he told the media: "We have confirmed our shared interest in taking the problem of drug trafficking to the Summit of the Americas to be held in Miami."

Perez Balladares, in turn, invited Mexican investors to participate in the transformation of the reverted areas adjacent to the Panama Canal through the creation of a large commercial and industrial conglomerate.

The two presidents agreed to keep "directly in touch" after Zedillo's swearing-in ceremony with a visit by Perez Balladares to Mexico.

The meeting of the two presidents lasted apprpximately two hours and is part of a Zedillo's tour through Central America.

Perez, Zedillo To Present Drug Proposal in Miami

PA2111033094 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Nov 94 p 1A

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Cerro Azul, where they met yesterday, Mexican President-elect Ernesto Zedillo and Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares agreed to present a joint counternarcotics proposal at the upcoming Summit of the Americas to be held in Miami.

Zedillo, who arrived from El Salvador, landed at 1000 hours at the National Air Service's [SAN] section of Tocumen Airport aboard a Mexican Air Force [FAM] plane with his wife, Nilda Patricia Velasco, and numerous officials and reporters.

Zedillo was received by President Perez Balladares, his wife Dora de Perez Balladares, Vice President Felipe Virzi, Deputy Foreign Minister Omar Jaen Suarez, and Panamanian Ambassador Nils Castro.

Zedillo, who is on a tour through Central America before he is sworn in on 1 December, expressed concern over what he described as "the pernicious drug trafficking phenomenon" and agreed to join forces with the Panamanian president to fight it.

Mexico and Panama have signed agreements to counter the drug trafficking that seriously harms the two countries. Zedillo said he intends to use them to coordinate actions against this crime.

Although the fight against drugs was the center of Zedillo's concern, the subject of greatest interest was the desire to expand free trade between the two countries and the rest of Latin America.

Zedillo believes that Mexico and Panama have much in common and that their economies can complement each other. He said that there is a genuine political interest for a close relationship between the two countries.

Nevertheless, what filled Perez Balladares most with optimism was Zedillo's pledge to support Panama's efforts to join NAFTA. "Mexico will do nothing to keep Panama from joining NAFTA," he said.

After the meeting concluded, the security agents took Zedillo to SAN, where he boarded FAM's "President Carranza" plane, which will fly him to Nicaragua for the next stop in his tour.

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Meetings Held To Define Position at Miami Summit

PA2111025994 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Nov 94 p 4A

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the Panamanian Foreign Ministry is absolutely tight-lipped regarding the coming Summit of the Americas, it has been reported that interinstitutional technical meetings continue to be held to define Panama's position on the Declaration of Principles and the Governmental Action Plan.

The Summit of the Americas, convened by President Bill Clinton to be held on 9 and 10 December, is the first meeting that will gather all of the presidents of the continent since 1967.

It is understood locally that the Panamanian Government will concur with the position previously presented at the Rio Group and the other Central American summits on political, social, and economic matters.

These proposals are also being broached by the Miami Summit organizers. Some of the most important of such proposals are establishing a Social Aid Fund to combat poverty, giving impetus to integration processes to create a free trade zone in the region, and creating an energy cooperation system, where not only the producers will profit but the consumers as well.

To this would be added a general effort in the fight against corruption, without excluding issues like women's rights, Latin America's foreign debt, and Proposition 187, which eliminates state aid for illegal immigrants in California and has been fully rejected by the Hispanic community because it undermines fundamental human rights.

Legislative Commission Accepts ARI Modification Bill

PA1811220594 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Report by Luis Alberto Jimenez; from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Legislative Assembly's Canal Issues Commission has accepted a bill to modify the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI] Law. The commission's decision comes at a time when groups linked to the past government claim that the current administration is attempting to politicize the ARI in order to divvy up the reverted areas as booty. Opposition legislators indicate that the move to accept the document means an extensive debate will begin on the issue because the nation's interests are at stake.

[Begin commission member Lucas Zarak recording] We are not here to support any government that wants to use these areas as political booty. Therefore, we will be vigilant to ensure that whatever is done here improves and does not worsen what we already have. [end recording]

The document presented by the ruling faction affirms the ARI's partial autonomy, but the ARI must also coordinate with government institutions and the private sector. This is a change from the full autonomy given to the ARI by Law No. 5 of 1993, which established the institution. Likewise, the new document stipulates that the finance and treasury minister will serve as president of the ARI's Executive Board, which also will be modified.

The ruling party legislators maintain that the changes show true concern for the Panamanian people.

[Begin commission member Oyden Ortega recording] These claims are baseless, because what the current government is doing, which the former government failed to do, is to open the issue to a nationwide debate in an effort to get the opinion of the greatest number of people on an issue as important as the one related to the Panama Canal. [end recording]

The reverted areas are some of the greatest assets Panama will receive as a result of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. It is precisely the same people who created the ARI who now want to modify it, adding that they want to ensure that these assets revert to the Panamanian people.

Institution Politicization Denied

PA1811205894 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Report by Alexander Calderon; from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Carlos Mendoza, the board president of the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI], has denied rumors of the politicization of the institution that manages the reverted assets, as well as the rumor that the executive branch is applying pressure for the dismissal of current ARI administrator Jose de los Santos Chen Barria.

[Begin recording] [Mendoza] There is no politicization of the ARI. What we have is what I have been announcing for the past two months: the peremptory need to change the ARI bylaws to expedite its activities and, at the same time, to improve the coordination of those activities with the executive administration and the legislators.

[Reporter] Has the ARI been pressured wilth regard to Mr. Chen Barria's appointment?

[Mendoza] Look, conservatively speaking, I weigh 150 lbs. It is not easy to pressure me. [end recording]

Mendoza also denied that he has differences with the new ARI administrator and said his relations with Jose Chen Barria where acceptably cordial.

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Argentina

Joint Force Formed To Resolve AMIA Bombing

PY1811185194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1041 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (NA)—The government has ordered the creation of a joint force, involving the federal police, border police, and Argentine Coast Guard, that will cooperate in resolving the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombing perpetrated on 18 July.

Through Decree No. 2,024, issued last night, the government ordered these security forces "to operate jointly, enhancing and optimizing the required methods, in order to resolve" the terrorist action that was perpetrated exactly four months ago.

The decree also establishes that "all state organizations will cooperate with the security forces and the Security and Community Protection Secretariat in the investigation of this action."

In the decree's whereas portion, the government points out that it is necessary for "the security and police forces to enhance their own material and human resources, joining efforts for this investigation."

Foreign Ministry Began 'Alert' on Hizballah Agents

PY1811183994 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Nov 94 p 10

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry warned the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE] "that three Hizballah agents, who were planning future terrorist attacks, were traveling to Argentina." This information was conveyed in a fax addressed to [SIDE Secretary] Hugo Azorreguy at 2116 on 4 November. The fax provoked the "alert" last week by Deputy Miguel Angel Toma.

The terse message—which originated at the Secretariat for Foreign Relations and Latin American Affairs—supplied the names of the following suspects: "a) Samir al-Natur; who travels on a Lebanese passport; b) Ali Mohammad al-Mekdad (a Lebanese Shiite), who also travels on a Lebanese passport; and c) Fadi Assad, who travels on a Jordanian passport."

The first alert on the activities of terrorists was sounded by Toma, who chairs the Defense Committee at the Chamber of Deputies, on 11 November. He said SIDE agents had detected "a significant movement of various fundamentalist groups at the Argentine-Brazilian-Paraguayan border area."

A spokesman of the Security and Community Protection Secretariat, which is chaired by Brigadier Andres Antonietti, has said the issue involves "15 Lebanese citizens on the Brazilian side of the border, who are under complete control." [passage omitted]

In its 12 November issue, CLARIN reported that two "key" witnesses appeared before Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano. They testified that the explosion at the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association was linked to the 1992 attack on the Israeli Embassy, and that they even supplied the names of suspects.

Those witnesses can reportedly specify which Iranian ministry was responsible for planning the attack, and added that a man nicknamed "Carlos the Iranian"—whose real name is Emad Moghanieh—helped to plan the attack, and that the suicide driver of the van used in the AMIA attach was Imah Ghamlush, a Lebanese citizen.

Pharmaceutical Patent Law Approved in General by Senate

PY1711191894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0323 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Nov (NA) — Just after 2235 [0135 GMT] the Senate approved in general the bill on patents and began to study the law article by article.

The Justicialist Party bloc decided at the last moment to extend from 5 to 8 years the transition period for the implementation of the so-called Pharmaceutical Patent Law.

The original bill, which was submitted by the president of the Justicialist bloc, Pedro Molina, established a period of 5 years, but due to the insistence of the Radical [Radical Civic Union] bloc, the period was extended to 8 years.

Despite this modification, the Radical senators refused to give their support and voted for their own draft bill; therefore, the bill was only approved by a simple majority rather than the two-thirds majority required to block any eventual modification that could be made by the Chamber of Deputies.

The Radicals had supported the bill submitted by Mendoza Province Senator Jose Genoud, which called for a 10-year transition period that is stipulated in the patent "TRIPs" [trade related intellectual property rights] for developing countries contained in the GATT document.

The concession given by the official bloc of senators did not make the opposition change its mind in terms of voting for its own proposal, but it did widen the gap between the blocs regarding the bill that was drafted by the executive branch, which establishes that the law be implemented immediately.

The extension of the transition period in part benefits the interests of the local pharmaceutical industry because it gives it more time to adapt its production to the new conditions the patent system imposes.

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Further on Passing of Bill

PY1711224594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1122 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Nov (NA)—The Senate has passed a bill on pharmaceutical patents submitted by Justicialist Senator Pedro Molina [for Santa Cruz Province] by virtue of which the right of an inventor of a product to be the holder of the patent on the said product is established in Argentina.

The initiative, called the Patents and Royalties Law, enables the person developing a medicine to make use of his/her invention and, if mandatory licenses have been assigned to third parties, to collect royalties for each product that is sold in the country.

Molina's bill was one of the two bills that were submitted for discussion yesterday, as the Radical bloc put forth a bill, drafted by Mendoza Province's Senator Genoud, proposing greater protection for domestic pharmaceutical companies.

Leopoldo Bravo, Bloquista senator for San Juan Province, Juan Carlos Oyarzun, Tierra del Fuego Popular Movement senator for Tierra del Fuego Province, and Felipa Sapag, Neuquen Popular Movement senator for Neuquen Province, endorsed the Justicialist Party's bill. Mendoza Province Senator Jose Octavio Bordon, Catamarca Province Mario Fadel, and Jose Antonio Romero Feris and Ramon Aguirre Lanari, Corrientes Autonomist Party senators for Corrientes Province, voted for the Radical Party's bill.

Both bills were put together taking into account the guidelines propounded by GATT, and differed in various degrees from the patents bill the executive branch had submitted to the Senate in May 1993.

The Justicialist draft law entrusts the National Institute for Patents and Inventions (INPI) with the power of granting or withholding a license to an Argentine laboratory, although it stipulates that compulsory licenses must be granted in case of a public health emergency or national security, or else when the holder of the patent decides not to use it.

For those cases in which the holder of a patent decides to assign or license the patent rights, Molina's bill makes no reference to a ceiling on the establishment of royalties. The Radicals construed this as a concession in favor of the inventor.

Another key point in the ruling party's bill states that it is mandatory to manufacture the patented medicine in Argentina, although it empowers the executive branch to establish exceptions.

Hence only those products that have the express authorization of the Argentine Government may be imported from their country of origin.

Contrary to the wishes of executive branch and foreign laboratories that wanted an immediate enforcement of the patents law, Molina's bill provides for an eight-year transition period before the law becomes effective, so as to enable the Argentine industry to adapt to the new conditions on the pharmaceutical market.

Therefore, if the Chamber of Deputies enacts this law it will only come into force in 2003.

The bill moreover stipulates that all those products which have been patented up to two years before the enactment of the patents law will also be governed by the said law.

The enactment of a patents law acknowledging the rights of inventors has long been an aspiration of U.S. pharmaceutical companies, which over the last few years have managed to secure the support of Washington authorities.

Over the last two years, Congress has been stalling the debate on a patents law. This has given rise to reiterated demands from U.S. authorities, even warning about the possibility of imposing economic sanctions on Argentina.

Terence Todman, former U.S. ambassador to Buenos Aires, and his successor James Cheek took upon themselves the task of systematically bringing this issue to the forefront by underscoring the advantages of passing a law that enables the country to have access to industrial countries' technological and scientific advances.

Washington's insistence on this issue allegedly led the Menem administration to draft a patents bill, which was subsequently submitted to Congress and voted down by the Chamber of Deputies. This prompted the executive branch to make a second attempt via the Senate.

Following several months of deep study by several Senate committees, the executive's bill was killed and replaced by the bills submitted by Senators Molina and Genoud.

Molina's bill was carried at the Industry Committee thanks to the vote of the Justicialists and the San Juan Bloquista senator, whereas Genoud's bill was voted for by a minority including the Radicals and the dissident Justicialist Alberto Rodriguez Saa.

Economy Minister Describes 1994 as 'Good'

PY1811210794 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1356 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Rosa, 17 Nov (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo today emphasized here that this year has been exceptionally good economically because Economy Ministry projections have been surpassed.

Minister Cavallo emphasized: "This has been an exceptionally good year." He noted: "During the first six months, the GDP grew 7.4 percent."

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Cavallo made remarks shortly after arriving in Santa Rosa to participate in a scheduled cabinet meeting. He emphasized: "During the first 10 months, exports grew 17 percent."

The minister stated: "During the first six months, investments grew 28 percent as compared with the first six months of 1993 and inflation will be under our 4-percent projection by year end."

Cavallo confirmed that retirees "will collect their November and December retirement payments and their Christmas bonus without any problems," following the budget cuts decreed on 17 November.

Decree No. 2034, which was signed by President Carlos Menem, will make savings of 1.3 billion pesos that will be used for retirement pensions and Christmas bonus to retirees.

Impact of Electoral Changes Viewed

95SM0046A Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 25 Oct 94 p 9

[Article by Joaquin Morales Sola: "Federalism Has Been Sentenced to Death"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An elderly national senator is poking through files, dusting off an untidy pile of reports, and looking up figures on regional economies and voter registration. He is analyzing the political and economic changes that could come to pass now that the new constitution has abolished the Electoral College and prescribed the direct election of the president with the country as a single district.

His conclusion smacks of catastrophe. "They will never have enough time to regret what they have done," he says.

A couple of specific examples is worth more than any theory. The province of Buenos Aires and the Federal Capital, together, used to account for 32.4 percent of the Electoral College; henceforth they will make up 49.6 percent of the electorate. Simply put, just 2 of the existing 24 districts will from now on have half the say in electing our presidents.

At the other extreme of the political map, Argentina's 10 smallest provinces (Catamarca, Chubut, Formosa, La Pampa, La Rioja, Neuquen, Rio Negro, San Luis, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego), which made up 23 percent of the former Electoral College, will see their influence plummet to just 3.6 percent of the vote in presidential elections.

Four Districts Alone

The fact is that just four national districts (Santa Fe, Cordoba, the province of Buenos Aires, and the Federal Capital) will be able to elect our future presidents. They will hold 66.5 percent of national decision-making power, whereas before they made up less than half of the Electoral College, holding 45.9 percent of its votes.

Even Mendoza, the number five province in electoral terms, will see its clout increase slightly. The number six province, Tucuman, will be the first to see its influence wane, and the trend continues as the districts grow smaller. The least important electoral region in the country, Tierra del Fuego, will account for just 0.2 percent of the vote in presidential elections; in contrast, it had 2.3 percent of the votes in the Electoral College.

Briefly put, the four smallest districts (Catamarca, La Rioja, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego) will have less than two percent of the vote in presidential elections, compared to 66 percent for the four largest ones.

Such changes presage sweeping transformations in politics, the economy, and society in Argentina. Perhaps Carlos Menem and Raul Alfonsin will be the last presidents to boast of having campaigned all over the country before taking office.

Future presidents will not need to. They will merely have to tour the four largest and most decisive districts and make sure that they are seen often over the national mass media, mainly television. The power of the national media will grow under the new electoral system as the decision-making power of their natural consumers mounts.

The balance that the Electoral College maintained was justified as a defense of federalism, a system enshrined in the new and the old constitution. Unlike the new one, however, the previous one provided specific procedures to safeguard this principle.

An Odd Memory Lapse

The decision to abolish the Electoral College was made while the Olivos Pact was being drafted. A very odd development. The two leaders who signed the pact forgot their federalist background under the pressure of their own personal ambitions. Menem is from La Rioja, one of the country's smallest districts, and had previously exalted last century's tough federal caudillos in his contradictory political haven.

Alfonsin heads a party that made federalism one of its most sacred pagan rites. The Radical Party's National Committee has a federalist makeup, for example; each district sends an equal number of members, whether it is Buenos Aires or Tierra del Fuego.

"A presidential candidate can win in 5 districts and lose in 19 and become president," one of the principal architects of the constitutional reform admits with a tinge of regret.

The surprise over this sea change in the nation's political history and culture extends to foreign observers as well. In an obvious allusion to the local changes, one long-time U.S. diplomat chose to contrast his country with Argentina.

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The unspoken criticism is implicit. "The United States has never changed its Electoral College system. There are two traditions that will never change. One is political and has to do with the balance between wealthy states and towns and poor, sparsely populated ones. The other is economic and explains the subsidies for farmers even though we are the most industrialized country on earth. But at the outset the United States was a nation of farmers, and our deepest cultural roots lie there," he remarks, seemingly comparing two political opposites.

Toward the Scaffold

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention who passed the new electoral regulations are the ones most surprised by the changes. They included many current governors of provinces that will disappear as political factors. Yet they wasted their time in Santa Fe feuding over their own reelection or over federal revenue-sharing, which could have been taken care of in a law.

None of them, in contrast, raised his voice to protest the fact that his province was headed to the scaffold. The loss of political power will sooner or later lead to the collapse of their economies, which necessarily depend on national policies to develop potential resources or on direct subsidies. "Within 50 years some provinces will have disappeared," the repentant framer of the new constitution laments.

Elsewhere in government the numbers are simpler and also colder: Whatever does not furnish votes for government projects or provide foreign exchange for the National Treasury will never prompt serious conflict, they calculate. But even if they are destined to disappear, the noise that the small provinces will make before their demise will deafen many.

A Bad Example

The reformists support their position by citing the bad example that the Electoral Colleges in the Federal Capital and Corrientes gave in recent times. In the capital, an alliance of losing candidates swindled the winner, the Radical Party's Fernando de la Rua, out of a national senate seat in 1989.

In Corrientes, disregard of the will of the people, who voted in the Liberal Autonomist Party in the 1991 gubernatorial election, plunged the province into a deep institutional crisis for more than two years, including charges that a decisive member of the Electoral College had been bribed.

According to the reformists, Electoral Colleges carry the virus of an always latent disease: being able to circumvent the essence of democracy, which is government by those whom society has elected with its votes.

Two principles seem to be at odds here: democracy and federalism. Politics, however, can settle conflicts without causing so many cataclysms and while recognizing long-standing groups and cultures. One principle need not die in order for the other to survive.

Bolivia

Sanchez de Lozada Views Summit of Americas

PA1811235894 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Interview via satellite with President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada Bustamente from La Paz by Jacobo Zabludovsky at the XEW Television Studios in Mexico City; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zabludovsky] In three weeks exactly, the most important meeting of heads of state in the history of the Americas will be held in the city of Miami, Florida. Mr. President, Could you explain your country's position and your personal position regarding inter-American issues?

[Sanchez de Lozada] Well, we have a very plain, clear message. We believe it would be a great mistake to go there with a list of different issues. We believe we must go to this meeting thinking of a single large goal: namely, to create a large hemispheric market; possibly, over time, a single community; and perhaps even—and why not dream—a hemispheric union, a Pan-American Union.

We believe that, if we fail to realize the dream of uniting our continent on economic, social, and environmental issues basically through the exchange of goods, services, and experiences, we will be wasting time in trying to head toward a great common market or by taking bold steps that seize the imagination of our peoples. This will permit us to advance toward a better future.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, how will this be accomplished in practice? I have attended all of the meetings of American presidents since the one in 1956 in Panama. Sometimes, everything becomes rhetoric and the great efforts of having the presidents meet result in vague declarations that are never applied. What would now be the practical approach to realize the goals you just outlined?

[Sanchez de Lozada] Well, I believe one of the most practical steps that is being undertaken is this: I understand the meetings will be held without advisers and without the press. The presidents will be by themselves, and this will afford an opportunity for an honest dialogue.

Bolivia's position is that the situation has radically changed since Mexico agreed to join NAFTA. Mexico was always at the vanguard of preserving its identity and that of Latin America against that great colossus of the United States. Once Mexico took that step, I think the time came to dream of a hemispheric union—a union

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that would be multi-cultural, multi-racial, and would include all of our societies under new economic, social, and political dynamics.

The largest problem is that we might end up with an agenda of a number of different points, even though all of these points may be, by the way, important. I think the creation of NAFTA is something very important; it has indeed been created, and we must make a decision.

Next century will be the century of America, North America, the United States. It will be the century of the Americas, and there must be a desire to think big and dream big, as well as to have a very specific goal to seize the imagination of our peoples.

[Zabludovsky] Very well, Mr. President. Would you like to add anything?

[Sanchez de Lozada] I would only like to say that we hope Mexico and its president assume a role of leadership. As you know, through the movies and so many other cultural examples, Mexico has exerted a great deal of influence over other countries, even those far from its borders. In the wake of Mexico's decision to join NAFTA, it will become a bridge for Latin America to Anglo-Saxon America. I think Mexico must be much more than a bridge. It must be the catalyst in this process. We hope to see a great deal of leadership from Mexico and its president along these lines.

I, at least, have a very clear idea. We will not waste time in petty details and will concentrate on the basic topic of this meeting: Are we or are we not going to create a large common market, a community, and eventually a union?

Government Officials Welcome New U.S. Envoy

PY1811235994 La Paz HOY in Spanish 12 Nov 94 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Remarks by the new U.S. ambassador to Bolivia, Curtis Kammann, to the effect that bilateral relations should be "denarcoticized," were well received by Chamber of Deputies President Javier Campero Paz and by ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] bloc leader Tito Hoz de Vila.

Kammann arrived in the country as scheduled, early on the morning of 11 November, and his first remarks were designed to make known the nature of his new diplomatic mission. He said he was in favor of broadening the scope of binational relations.

Campero Paz said: "If the U.S. ambassador is of that opinion, it is the best news I have heard today."

He said that "denarcoticizing" current relations is a subject of vital importance for the country, as the North Americans have always sought to tie economic cooperation to drug enforcement.

"Now new conditions, a new crusade linked to the drug trafficking issue, has emerged. It is essential to keep drug enforcement separate from the other issue (int ration), because drug enforcement is of interest to both Bolivia and the United States as producing and consuming countries," he said.

Hoz de Vila was more cautious, saying that he could not comment on the ambassador's remarks. He said, however: "We hope he will try to gauge the feelings of all Bolivians on the coca-cocaine issue, rather than those of some sectors of the administration."

He added that he hoped that the ambassador will gauge the feelings of all Bolivians, and "will carry out his mission in keeping with the guidelines established by his government, resorting to the capacity and intelligence that he possesses, according to his resume."

The reaction of the labor sector was different, as COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation] leaders believe there to be no difference between Kammann and Richard Bowers, the previous U.S. ambassador, as the two defend the same interests.

Commentary Views U.S. Envoy's Stance

PY1811214494 La Paz HOY in Spanish 12 Nov 94 p 4

[Commentary from the "Recollections from the Present" column by Humberto Vacaflor G.: "The Ambassador Has Arrived"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a bit of sarcasm—just a bit—a keen observer a few days ago lamented that the personalities of U.S. ambassadors are decisive for Bolivian governments. If the ambassador is good, intelligent, and creative, this will be reflected in the Bolivian Government because of the influence that the U.S. envoy has on the general situation in Bolivia.

With Robert Gelbard, for example, it was impossible to reach any understanding. To begin with, he was far from being a diplomat.

Richard Bowers, a charming person, was not a diplomat either, but this did not force him to be clumsy. That was the difference with Gelbard. Bowers had to continue the job of his predecessor, who controlled Bowers' steps from his influential post as drug policeman in Washington. Bowers will now retire from diplomatic life, surely embittered by the praetorial duties he had to fulfill in a foreign country in which he had made friends.

A diplomat will finally take over now. He was in Chile, and has been promoted to a very important post in a country that deserves a treatment that is different from what it has been given by U.S. envoys over the past few years.

Curtis Kamman will have to take into account that Bolivia has, besides producing coca, implemented for 10 years and without any hesitation an economic program inspired by the market economy, but which has not yet produced any benefit.

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If he does what his predecessors did, he will look only at coca and will ignore the rest of the picture, which is full of dramatic situations and problems but also full of hope. Even if he does not accept that coca is different from cocaine, he must be fully convinced that Bolivia is not coca.

If he reduces our country to the problem of coca, he will be starting a new diplomatic term unhelpful for promoting Bolivian development. Promoting development is the best method by which he could free the Bolivian economy from its dependence on coca.

Other countries, other regions, like the European Union, are concerned about coca, but they also care for the rest of the picture and have decided to help our country move forward. Those regions and those countries are engaged in a rich dialogue with Bolivia, rather than in a monotonous conversation focusing on coca.

Perhaps the ambassador should know that Bolivia has made progress in its struggle to free itself from its dependence on the economy of coca. The balance that the Bolivian Government has submitted to the Paris consulting group is full of figures reflecting the progress made in this area.

He will learn that zero is not the only figure that Bolivians can understand.

CSUTCB Head Criticizes COB Executive Committee

95SM0045C La Paz HOY in Spanish 24 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The labor unions are facing two battles: one against the government and another against leaders who are active in government parties and who also occupy key positions in the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation]. Ironically, the COB leadership has to battle its critics and show that, despite everything, the COB is not aligned with the government.

The credibility of the Bolivian Labor Federation is in question because of the presence at senior levels of activists from government parties who are working to weaken the federation, according to a statement on 23 October by Nestor Bravo, leader of the General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia (CSUTCB). However, Oscar Salas, executive secretary of the COB, played down this view.

"What we need are leaders who are able to sacrifice their personal and party interests in favor of the interests of the workers," said the peasant leader, spokesman of one of the sectors that has been most critical of the performance of the COB leadership.

Salas, who admitted that government party militants are present in the workers' National Executive Committee (CEN), said that what was important was the weight that they might have in the decisions of the labor federation. He also insisted on emphasizing that all of the members of the CEN, a kind of general staff for Bolivian workers, apart from their party activities, were elected by their respective union sectors to represent them in the federation.

Miners, peasants, and members of the radical federation of school teachers of La Paz have been unceasing in their criticism of the COB's National Executive Committee since it was elected at the congress in Tarija in May 1994, because of the open and substantial presence in it of activists from government parties. While the critics have not yet reached the point of breaking with the COB, their discontent is evident.

"These elements cause the COB to appear to be sapped of its strength," said Bravo, implacable in his criticism, charging that their election was made possible by "a considerable flow" of economic resources during the congress—in which the workers renewed their national leadership—and which in turn made possible their being "chosen."

"We are not going to leave the COB, we are going to stand up to those who protect their parties' interests, their own interests or the interests of the government," said Bravo, who also stated that it was "deplorable" that they would choose party loyalty over the working masses that they represent, despite "the poverty and exploitation" in which the rank and file live.

Not the Official View

For his part, Salas said that Bravo's remarks did not represent the official view of the peasant confederation, but he is used to this and it is normal in the democracy of the workers to give and receive criticism.

"As executive secretary of the COB, I am the target of all the criticisms, and this is natural. The government thinks that I am an extremist and the others (his critics) think that I am a government sympathizer," said the chief of the COB.

But he also insisted that, at this time, "there is no other institution in Bolivia that is more decidedly opposed to the government than the labor federation."

During the last conflict between the government and the unions at the end of August and the beginning of September, it was the peasants and, primarily, the coca growers who carried the mobilization forward, and it was then that they began to have doubts about the honesty of behavior of some members of the federation's CEN.

The criticisms of the peasants increased when negotiating with the government was mentioned, and factory workers, miners and other union members joined in.

"These criticisms were a result of the situation, it was a momentary fear, our rank and file saw that the COB was becoming isolated in the negotiations," said Bravo, who pointed out that once that phase was over, it was necessary for all of the sectors to rally around the COB to

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give battle to the government which, according to Bravo, has failed to comply with agreements that it signed, continues to ride roughshod over the coca growers, and is carrying on disputes with the teachers.

The Real Problem

In addition to the criticism directed against the leadership of the COB, Bravo said that the real root of the peasants' discontent is the lack of balance in representation inside the federation.

"We are not arguing about quotas of power, rather we want to put things in their proper place," he said. Nevertheless, he went on, the peasants, an impoverished and excluded majority in Bolivia, who carry on a daily struggle against all forms of discrimination, have not managed to find a place for themselves in the COB, which in its own way continues to victimize the peasants in its treatment of them.

"We want to make use of the CSUTCB to obtain a better balance. We peasants are a majority of the total population of Bolivia and, as an affiliate of the COB, we have no place in it, and this worries us," Bravo said. Although this newspaper tried several times to obtain Salas' views on this point, the COB leader avoided providing a structural analysis of the COB's composition. Salas limited himself to addressing the problem only from the point of view of attacks against the federation's CEN.

"The COB's structure does not provide us with positions, there is differentiation; that is evident because criteria are taken into account, such as whether people are professionals or employees. They do not understand our needs," Salas emphasized.

He also stressed that, thanks to the peasant mobilization, the COB has recovered some of its lost credibility and drawing power.

Brazil

Gubernatorial Election Results Released

PY1711201094 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1204 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Superior Electoral Court Bulletin. Partial results at 09:30:34:

SAO PAULO	20,774,991 voters	
monitored districts:	42,118	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Mario Covas	8,661,960	48.80
Francisco Rossi	6,771,456	38.15
Null Votes	2,134,356	12.03
Blank Votes	180,764	1.02

MINAS GERAIS	10,559,739 voters	
monitored districts:	32,812	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Eduardo Azredo	4,370,867	52.15
Helio Costa	3,081,104	36.76
Null Votes	813,522	9.71
Blank Votes	115,781	1.38

RIO DE JANEIRO	9,129,373 voters	
monitored districts:	5,750	(24.6 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Marcelo Alencar	832,226	46.62
Garotinho	671,656	37.62
Null Votes	256,548	14.37
Blank Votes	24,883	1.39

BAHIA	7,031,624 voters	
monitored districts:	23,639	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Paulo Souto	2,235,584	51.18
Joao Durval	1,577,010	36.10
Null Votes	479,740	10.98
Blank Votes	75,712	1.73

RIO GRANDE DO SUL	6,296,021 voters	
monitored districts:	22,631	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Antonio Britto	2,679,701	49.57
Olivio Dutra	2,453,174	45.38
Null Votes	225,010	4.16
Blank Votes	47,501	0.88

SANTA CATARINA	3,157,290 voters	
monitored districts:	11,610	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Paulo Afonso	1,288,044	48.24
Angela Amin	1,247,562	46.73
Null Votes	118,582	4.44
Blank Votes	15,760	0.59

PARA	2,783,131 voters	
monitored districts:	9,241	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Almir Gabriel	835,404	56.58
Jarbas Passarinho	486,813	32.97
Null Votes	140,437	9.51
Blank Votes	13,889	0.94

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GOIAS	2,622,097 voters	
monitored districts:	8,389	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Maguito Vilela	1,013,025	51.70
Lucia Vania	782,568	39.94
Null Votes	147,047	7.50
Blank Votes	16,788	0.86

PARAIBA	2,091,506 voters	
monitored districts:	7,554	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Antonio Mariz	781,349	52.22
Lucia Braga	558,987	37.36
Null Votes	137,249	9.17
Blank Votes	18,536	1.24

ESPIRITO SANTO	1,710,729 voters	
monitored districts:	5,903	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Victor Buaiz	669,533	50.94
Dejair Camata	537,051	40.86
Null Votes	96,653	7.35
Blank Votes	11,226	0.85

PIAUI	1,631,161 voters	
monitored districts:	5,367	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Mao Santa	615,945	52.07
Atila Lira	487,635	41.22
Null Votes	64,231	5.43
Blank Votes	15,112	1.28

SERGIPE	942,246 voters	
monitored districts:	2,958	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Albano Franco	371,784	48.88
Jackson Barreto	347,636	45.70
Null Votes	34,231	4.50
Blank Votes	6,982	0.92

RONDONIA	692,067 voters	
monitored districts:	2,308	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Valdir Raupp	248,148	59.12
Chiquilito	145,037	34.55
Null Votes	23,549	5.61
Blank Votes	3,019	0.72

AMAPA	197,171 voters	
monitored districts:	534	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Capiberibe	69,907	53.15
Jonas Pinheiro	57,517	43.73
Null Votes	3,484	2.65
Blank Votes	626	0.48

ACRE	236,162 voters	
monitored districts:	845	(99.9 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Orleir Cameli	91,986	49.83
Flaviano Melo	79,336	42.98
Null Votes	11,560	6.26
Blank Votes	1,706	0.92

RORAIMA	119,888 voters	
monitored districts:	409	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Neudo Campos	47,277	55.04
Getulio Cruz	33,586	39.10
Null Votes	4,359	5.08
Blank Votes	668	0.78

MARANHAO	2,615,445 voters	
monitored districts:	9,498	(99.7 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Roseana Sarney	751,995	47.69
Cafeteira	734,558	46.58
Null Votes	69,982	4.44
Blank Votes	20,319	1.29

FEDERAL DISTRICT	1,062,247 voters	
monitored districts:	2,764	(100 percent)
GOVERNOR	Number of votes	Percentage
Cristovam	460,059	51.03
Valmir Campelo	393,615	43.66
Null Votes	43,596	4.84
Blank Votes	4,295	0.48

Cardoso Gives Statement After Runoff

PY1711171094 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1258 GMT 17 Nov 94

[Statement by President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso in Brasilia—live; broadcast in progress]

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[FBIS Translated Text] ...the Brazilian people, whose voters once again reasserted their will to continue with the reforms and the transformations within the framework of the law and the people's desires.

I cannot fail to express my satisfaction at the fact that the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] has obtained important triumphs throughout the country, just as the other parties also obtained meaningful triumphs. We now have a cadre of governors that, in my opinion, seems to be very positive.

The result of the elections, as in any democracy, will be respected not only in terms of the legal succession, but in political terms as well. I am sure President Itamar Franco, with whom I spoke yesterday, shares this same feeling of satisfaction with the election results. I must add that the elections were presided over in an absolutely fair manner by the president of the Republic.

As future president, I want to clearly establish that I am willing to work with all the governors, be they from my party, from the parties that supported me, or from parties that did not support me, always thinking of the important subjects, that is, of the transformations the country wants. I will always be willing to discuss the national problems and to help, as much as possible, find solutions for the state problems together with the governors.

The fact that we had an election in which the parties that supported me and many governors I supported—within the limitations I faced—have become elected increases my responsibility. My satisfaction with the election results goes hand in hand with a growing internal feeling of enormous responsibility for the exercising of the presidency of the Republic within the framework of a country that began reorganization under President Itamar Franco and that chose a clear option in favor of reforms.

I will dedicate myself to carrying out these reforms. A reform is not made through an imperial act. Reforms are not the result of a decree. A reform is not the result of the approval of a law by congress or even of a constitutional amendment. A reform is a process. It is something that must be permanently in the spirit of all of us who assumed this responsibility before the country.

When we discuss each problem during our administration, we must permanently bear in mind a long-term objective. As I already said, and now reiterate, I will give a farewell speech to the Senate in which I will announce, in a more concrete manner, the guidelines I think are necessary for this transformation. Now that the country has reasserted its will for democracy and a change in favor of a more modern, open economy, and for better service by the government and a distribution of wealth more compatible with a decent life, I want to clearly establish that the objectives of transformation will be permanent and that the transformation will not be carried out hastily.

As finance minister, I always—with the support of President Itamar Franco—informed the country of what I did. Now, as president of the Republic, and without asking for support or accepting impositions, I see no reason for changing my way of acting and doing things. The country must not expect surprises because surprises do not solve anything.

We will not be able to attain a democratic and lasting transformation if we do not implement the transformations daily and convince the people, as well as ourselves, in case a change of goal is necessary. My style is not to surprise the people with unexpected measures or with groundless speculations, just as it is not the style of President Itamar Franco. At the appropriate moment, I will announce what will be done and how it will be done, and I will ask for everyone's support.

As of this moment, I ask the new governors to support the measures we will have to adopt. We will continue to be alert in the process of combating inflation. I think that the election results clearly demonstrate the people's wish for economic and financial stability, for a solid currency, for a currency that will guarantee that their work efforts will not be corroded by inflation.

This is not a decision of a government. It is the decision of the people who approved this policy. We will continue with this policy. The governors-elect know that they were elected because of this, given that they inspired confidence in the people that they would be faithful followers of the popular will. This will imply measures that will be adopted—albeit through dialogues—without fail. The streamlining of the public finances will continue. The measures will be adopted because it is imperative to adopt them. This is not a decision of the government, but of all the Brazilian people, who demand that the governors and the president of the Republic work hard to solve that which has been postponed.

I am sure that that feeling of austerity is not only felt by the federal government but that it will be shared by the states. I also want to say, as I always said, that at the appropriate moment we will form a government that will express the people's wish for transformation. It will be a government united by a program. Our government will be focusing on the need for stabilization, without forgetting that a country like Brazil needs production. If Brazil wants to increase its production, it must give the industry and farming sectors conditions to allow them to invest calmly. Industry and farmers must be sure that competition, which is healthy, will be based on technological development so as to allow them to face the difficulties posed by the current international competition. They must be sure that we will adopt the appropriate measures to defend our producers from the so-called unfair competition.

We will make a great effort to continue with the process of streamlining our finances and of maintaining the value of the real in terms compatible with the dignity of a country that knows that inflation is an unacceptable

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evil. This effort will be accompanied by the concern that national production must continue increasing so as to attain—in the next four years—the conditions to allow us to resume sustainable development.

Nowadays no one accepts wild economic growth policies. Sustained development means development with the purpose of ending misery and poverty while still respecting the environment.

In this happy moment for the governors, I think we must unite in this purpose.

Do not harbor any concern about how we will arrange the composition of our government. I reiterate that the government will be committed to those objectives, which have been approved by the people. It will be a government that will be sensitive to political circumstances; it will be a government that will engage in permanent dialogue with the sectors in Congress, of which I am a member, and in which I learned a lot about Brazilian public life.

Today, after the traumatic experiences it had to endure, Congress is aware that the people have very clear ideas, that people no longer agree to procedures that might have been routine in the past. Such procedures will no longer be used.

Dialogue with parties will be very frank, and those who are willing to back the government will participate in the government, in order to support a program. They will have the political and managerial responsibilities that are suitable to their position, but it will not be a give-and-take negotiation on specific matters involving concessions on A, B, C, or D. The country no longer wants this method. Parties do not want it, either.

I am very happy to say that after being elected, I talked with several party leaders. The leaders of the parties that support me are talking with other party leaders, and all our negotiations are being conducted bearing in mind the needs of the country.

There was not, and there will not be—because it would be useless—any other type of negotiation. Negotiations today are transparent. We have an objective, we have a program, we need support. The people want this program and we must create a government that is capable of implementing these transformations.

As important as the attitude of permanent search for changes—and not merely for a D-Day on which things should happen—is the capacity to manage.

Brazil is tired of irresponsible, incompetent management. Competence will be an essential criterion, to be coupled with the criterion of political commitment to the objectives that were defined during the electoral campaign, objectives that have been refined with the public, in full harmony with the Brazilian people.

I also want to say that with this spirit and for this purpose, I will as of now engage in more persistent conversations with political leaders of parties and Congress.

We will begin a debate on the reforms that are necessary. I have work groups that are already debating on some of those transformations. The reforms will be implemented with the spirit that I outlined here.

We will have a four-year government term. We will not govern only for 100 days, but for a much longer period. Everyone says that signals can be seen during the first 100 days. Yet spectacular signals serve only to rapidly disappoint the people if they are not followed by a permanent quest for transformation and reform.

It is with this spirit that we will ask Congress to support some modifications, some of them in the Constitution, others affecting laws.

It will be with this spirit, and more—above all—it will be with the experience that I gained as a lawmaker and as a former member of the executive branch, especially with the feeling that the law is not enough; that the law must also be fulfilled; that management can often fill legal vacuums or surmount difficulties that frequently seem unsurmountable; and that it is better to work, on a day-by-day basis, rather than simply announce great transformations that cannot be implemented.

Yet transformations will occur; they are already under way. They will be implemented because people are mature and they know how to monitor developments, and because Brazilian political leaders have been receptive to the signals of the times and are already in harmony with that new spirit. Whoever is not will remain outside, out of keeping with the flow of history.

I would also like to say that the opposition is necessary in a democratic government. The government, under my direction, will not agree to informal alliances. It will always be willing to debate on national problems with whomever is in the opposition, because they are national problems. The government will always be willing to ask for support on national issues. Yet it will respect the position of those who, for whatever reason, oppose the government and criticize it.

This is also valid for the governors-elect who are not members of the coalition that supports me, with whom I will maintain—as I have done throughout my public life—a respectful dialogue, always recalling that when people elect someone, it is a decision made by the people, and that people cannot be punished if the elected official is not liked—although this is not the case—by the president.

Presidential functions are not compatible with personal animosity, resentment, or selfishness.

We are thinking big, in a country that has vitality, a country that today has all conditions for taking a great leap. Consequently, I am absolutely sure that the government and the opposition will jointly do whatever is necessary for Brazil to reaffirm its current design of a country that is not only democratic, but also prosperous and able to better distribute its wealth.

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I would like to conclude by saying that at the end of December, without any haste, I will announce the members of the cabinet.

It is totally groundless to say that I will designate first this or that minister, or that I am negotiating this or that. No! Most of you here know me and know that I clearly say what I think. Since the beginning I said how I would do things, and I am doing them that way.

I am thinking first of the projects that are necessary, of the structure that is necesssary for meeting the needs of the country. I will then see who can do the job, paying special attention to technical skills and political conditions and political support, without which no country can be transformed.

A country cannot be transformed merely by imperial or technocratic will. A country can be transformed only if there is support, and support stems from the affinity between political sectors and the people's will.

I will calmly announce the fact.... [pauses] I will talk with many people before forming the government. You can take as many pictures as you want, but do not conclude from a conversation with the president-elect the reaching of any decision to fill a ministerial post. Or do so if you want, but you can be sure that it does not have my endorsement and that no one speaks for me. I have always said that no one speaks for me, unless I have specifically authorized them to do so.

Since it will be possible to have access to the president-elect—in an organized way, as we are doing now—do not be too anxious, because at the right time I hope I will be able to introduce to the country a set of persons who will be the tip of an iceberg, because we need a lot of people to change Brazil. And the change will not be made only by the president or his direct advisers.

I need a very large structure that will depend heavily on the proper conveying of information, and on people being convinced that the right course has been taken and that it has sustainable support.

I once again congratulate the governors who were recently elected, adding that I am sure that together we will be able to take the steps that will be possible only because the government of Itamar Franco made the decision to tackle some of the most difficult challenges Brazil faces. This will facilitate the work of the president-elect, who will continue on the same course.

Thank you very much.

Cardoso Begins Talks on State Debt Situation

PY1911014794 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 17 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Maria Cristina Fernandes in Sao Paulo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The economic team and President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso have begun negotiations to have the banks owned by state governments improve their financial situations by starting to sell the companies owned by the respective state governments. These negotiations seem to be yielding results.

Sao Paulo Governor-elect Mario Covas hinted that he would go along with this idea by announcing yesterday that he would sell the Sao Paulo Power and Light Company (CPFL), which is responsible for distributing electricity in the state. CPFL has a net worth of $1.4 billion.

The State of Sao Paulo's debt to Banespa [Sao Paulo State Bank] stands at nearly $7 billion. Its debt to the State Savings Bank [CEE] stands at $1.5 billion. In his first news conference as governor-elect, Covas said yesterday that "any step taken to sell state assets will be instrumental in reducing the state's debts to Banespa and to the CEE."

In Rio Grande do Sul, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] candidate Antonio Britto was elected governor in one of the closest races. He also hinted that he would concur with the corrective financial measures recommended by the managers of the Real Plan. According to reporter Jussara Marchand, Britto announced at a news conference in Porto Alegre that his government would assign priority to privatizations to improve the state financial situation.

PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] members are coordinating the negotiations during this transition stage prior to the inauguration of Fernando Henrique Cardoso. They believe that the positions taken by Covas and Britto will be followed by the governors of half of the Brazilian states, because the runoff elections have resulted in victories for Cardoso's allies. "The success of these governors will depend on the success of the Real Plan. They cannot but adopt a policy of austerity," says Deputy Jose Anibal (PSDB-Sao Paulo).

Cardoso's appeal is, however, far from eliciting unified support from all governors-elect. Santa Catarina Governor-elect Paulo Afonso Vieira, a PMDB member, announced yesterday in his first news conference that he would not tolerate interference by the federal government in Santa Catarina state-owned banks.

In remarks to reporter Andrea Leonora, Afonso Vieira said: "Just because banks owned by other states are going through shaky financial situations does not mean I am going to allow the federal government to meddle in the affairs of banks owned by the State of Santa Catarina."

The policy of streamlining public expenses will not be easily accepted in Bahia, either. Paulo Souto, one of the only two governors elected for the PFL [Liberal Front Party] (as of the closing of this edition, the vote count has not yet concluded in Maranhao State), has already announced that he will submit a long list of requests to Brasilia, including a program on water resources and the

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refurbishing of the federal government's infrastructure, including railroad and port facilities.

Cardoso will seek to reconcile the interests of the governors-elect with those of his future administration during talks he will hold with them in Brasilia beginning next week.

Cardoso will start negotiations with the new governors to secure the support base required to implement constitutional reforms. Covas said: "Our contribution will deal mainly with tax reform. Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro account for 70 percent of the federal government's revenues."

Speaking on the telephone with Cardoso, Covas confirmed that he will go to Brasilia next week. Britto announced yesterday that he will defend with the other governors-elect what has become known as "the policy of governors" concerning common objectives of the state governments and of the federal government.

In his news conference scheduled for this morning in Brasilia, Cardoso may state what he expects from the governors, whether or not they are his allies, to prevent the Real Plan from sinking into the black hole of the state governments' public finances.

U.S. Presidential Invitation to Cardoso Noted

PY1811153194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1220 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia—U.S. President Bill Clinton has invited President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso to attend the Americas summit, due to be held at the end of the year in Miami. This information has been released by diplomat Julio Cesar Gomes dos Santos, who is in charge of Cardoso's ceremonial procedures. Dos Santos said Cardoso will talk about the subject with President Itamar Franco. The U.S. President's invitation was conveyed by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry during a meeting with the president-elect this morning. They also talked about the purchase of Brazilian Tucano planes, the so-called "positive agenda" between the two countries, and the sending of peace-keeping military troops in joint missions with the United States.

Franco Warns of 'Interests' Outside Amazonas Community

PY1811203394 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2230 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 17 Nov (AE)—President Itamar Franco today warned the National Amazonas Council—which met at Planalto Palace—that "interests outside the Amazonas community have tried, still try, and will probably continue to try to convert the wealth of that territory into a type of reservoir for their exclusive use in the future." Although he did not identify those behind these "interests," Franco said "there are many forms of colonialism." He added: "We must be alert to sly methods disguised as 'humanitarian' or 'philanthropic' aid."

Franco said: "States have the right to repel any intervention in their domestic affairs." He added: "Cooperation among sovereign nations, which is both acceptable and desirable, should be based on that principle. We can and must accept the experience of others in areas in which such experience has proven to be effective. Yet we cannot allow political and sovereign decisions to be subordinated to foreign dictates."

At the Council meeting, which was attended by 16 ministers and nine Amazonas region governors, Franco said: "No other country has as much to offer mankind in this new revolution (genetic engineering) as Brazil. We do not have—we cannot have—the selfish gall to believe that these natural gifts are exclusively ours. We want to offer them to all of mankind. Let it be clearly understood that this cannot involve either commuting our sovereignty or damaging our dignity."

The president recalled: "Every nation uses its resources to promote its economic development." He stated: "We will not cease to allocate part of these benefits—which stem from biodiversity in the Amazonas—for the well-being of our people, beginning with those who live in that region." Franco believes that, in a few years time, Brazil will lead what he called "a great world genetic engineering revolution," adding: "We have accumulated intelligence and knowledge, but we must invest even more in basic and applied research while training many new scientists and researchers."

At its meeting today, the Council began to analyze the creation of a Northern Border Commission—based on a Foreign Ministry proposal—to control and promote development in border areas, and to encourage self-sustained economic activities. The Council also debated a document dealing with the Integrated National Policy for the Legal Amazonas Region. The presidency reported: "The document fulfills a commitment of Itamar Franco's government to promote harmonic development in the Amazonas region, with social equality and economic, environmental, and institutional support."

Army Begins Operation Against Crime in Rio

PY1811003294 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The largest operation ever mounted against organized crime in Brazil has finally been set into motion. Army armored vehicles are now on the streets of Rio de Janeiro.

Army troops left the barracks early this morning. At 0900, Army tanks began to block the three main accesses to the city of Rio de Janeiro. Army soldiers armed with machine guns erected barricades to seal off streets. The operation provoked huge traffic jams.

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Army personnel ordered bus commuters to get off, and frisked them before authorizing them to return to their buses. A helicopter flew over the street waiting to chase anyone who might attempt to run through the roadblock. Army personnel were looking for drugs and weapons in private vehicles.

In Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais, Army soldiers set up camp and jeeps closed off a lane of the highway while armed sentries watched from the top of a hill.

The Federal Police [PF] have also started Operation Guapore, designed to control the flow of weapons and drugs toward Rio de Janeiro. The operation encompasses Guajara-Mirim and Costa Marques in Rondonia; Caceres in Mato Grosso; and Corumba in Mato Grosso do Sul. The PF today confiscated 80 kg of cocaine and arrested 18 people in Corumba, a route through which 2 tonnes of cocaine are annually introduced into Brazil. The operation also encompasses Ponta Pora, Mato Grosso do Sul; and Foz do Iguacu, Parana.

The Army said that the objective is to prevent the drug trade in Rio de Janeiro by weakening the traffickers.

[Begin recording by Colonel Ivan Cardozo, spokesman for the military anti-crime command] The more drugs and weapons they receive, the more money they make. It thus becomes easier for them to move around, to pay bribes, and so forth. In sum, it is thus easier for them to engage in their criminal activities. [end recording]

The Army is already supplying weapons to the police. Beginning today, military police strike forces and special operations forces have been equipped with light automatic rifles, which are more powerful than the AR-15 rifles used by the drug traffickers.

Chile

Envoy to Mexico: Bilateral Ties 'Excellent'

PY1811170194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1731 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Santiago, 17 Nov (EFE)—Chilean Ambassador to Mexico Carlos Portales said today, 17 November, that relations between Chile and Mexico are "excellent," regardless of the restrictions imposed by Mexico on Chilean fish meal and apple exports.

On Wednesday [16 November], the Chilean Foreign Ministry reported that the Mexican Government has decided to impose quotas on Chilean fish meal exports, with the purpose of protecting local producers, a measure that was given a poor reception by Chilean businessmen. [passage omitted]

When asked about the restrictions imposed on fish meal, the ambassador admitted that relations "are not exempted of problems."

He explained further that the measure adopted by the Mexican economic officials is based on safeguard clauses that were mutually accepted by the two countries when they signed the Economic Complementation Agreement (ACE).

Portales added that the important thing is that the measures that might be adopted in the future "are in keeping with the spirit of the treaty."

The ambassador added that one must be very careful in analyzing details of the commercial relations, and added that although the evaluation of the commercial processes generated by ACE "is favorable," Chile also has the legitimate right to defend its economic interests.

Portales said: "On this point the government of President Eduardo Frei has been strong enough to make known to the Mexican officials its opinion on the matter."

The Mexican Government was asked to impose quotas on Chilean exports of fish meal by the Mexican fishing sector, which is affected by a strong crisis, and this measure will be in effect for two years. [passage omitted]

Minister Reports on Financial Delegation to UK

PY1811184594 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Nov 94 p B3

[Article by correspondent Hugo Estenssoro; quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Gaining access to the City of London, Great Britain's financial heart and one of the three crossroads of the world's economy, is not easy. It is well known that even the Queen of England must ask permission to enter, as part of a secular ceremony. Yet, on 8 November the Chilean financial delegation that is visiting London was received by the City's notables with great attention and deference. In that the mission sought to inform the British and inspire confidence, it can be said that the delegation won a victory without fighting a battle.

In remarks to EL MERCURIO, Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat, who is heading a delegation of more than 30 Chilean financial sector businessmen, stressed that this is the first delegation of its kind in recent times.

"This mission has a double objective," he stated: "To make contact at a ministerial level with several of my British colleagues, especially the energy minister [title as published], the person who is charge of monetary matters at the Exchequer, and authorities of the Bank of England. We discussed bilateral topics that refer, for example, to foreign investments in Chile (a possible agreement on the protection of investment), and tax topics."

"Another important aspect," the minister continued, "is that I have a first hand overview of how a market like Santiago, Chile, can be transformed into a regional

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long-term financial market. The program of the Chilean financial delegation to London also included a solid exchange of information: While Chilean personalities like Daniel Yarur, of the Superintendency of Stocks and Insurance, explained the Chilean market to the British, important British financial sector figures imparted knowledge about the London market.

The Chilean minister continued his chat with EL MERCURIO at the Warburg Bank Conference Center, saying: "Second, the financial delegation sought direct, personal, first-hand contact with the City's financial agents and regulators so they could learn from the experience gained by Great Britain, which enabled it to become one of the world's great financial centers."

The agenda of the delegation was intense during its stay in London. In addition to the formal program, there was also a series of more direct activities, including visits to Liffe (the futures market), the historic Stock Market, and the Bank of England.

The importance of the mission for Chile resides in its reasonably interesting trade figures: Nearly $800 million a year. There is also a British presence in our country through investment funds, the stock market, and in the banking sector. About 30 percent of British investments in Chile are in the manufacturing sector, with a marked accent on the mining area.

In the terms of concrete results, Aninat pointed out three advances that are already perceptible, even before the delegation concludes its agenda. "First," the minister said, having clarified some points, we have undertaken an agreement for the protection of investment.

"Second, British Energy Minister Dr. Eggar [title and name as published] has informed us of development alternatives in the deregulation and supervision of the gas market. As is already known, we have long-term projects, and the example of Northern Ireland has been cited.

"In conclusion, in addition to privatization topics we briefed an important number of investors on infrastructure projects in Chile that the Frei government has planned for now and the future."

Colombia

Reactions to Samper's Speech on Peace

PA1811221794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Varied reactions are being voiced following the prelude to peace now enveloping Colombia following this morning's speech by President Ernesto Samper in Popayan.

[Begin recording] [Patriotic Union Councilwoman Aida Abello] The talks must definitely take place, whether they are internal or external.

[Senator Elias Matus] We agree with President Samper's announcement of a useful dialogue with the guerrillas.

[Senator Luis Guillermo Giraldo] I believe this is a good option. I also believe that talks can be held regionally.

[Christian Union Senator Jaime Ortiz] We hope this will not bring about renewed frustration.

[Former presidential candidate Miguel Maza Marquez] For the time being, the Colombian Government is not prepared to hold talks under current or even improved conditions.

[Jorge Visbal, president of the National Cattle Breeders Association] We believe it is clear that there should be two conditions for opening a dialogue with the rebels. One is that they should release their hostages. The other is that they should stop hostile activities. Nevertheless, we respect the will of President Samper to advance the dialogue process in the manner he deems most befitting. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Vice President Humberto De la Calle Lombana today said that kidnapping cannot be used as a political tool to initiate peace negotiations. Here is Mauricio Arangule Molina with a report:

[Arangule] Vice President Humberto De la Calle described the Jaime Bateman group as a gang of confessed criminals. This guerrilla group kidnapped and later released Alfonso Lizarazo along with a peace proposal.

[Begin De la Calle recording] I repeat, in no way can this society allow kidnapping to become a valid method for political negotiation. [end recording]

[Arangule] The vice president applauded Lizarazo's release, but he added that he does not agree that criminals should be allowed to further their interests via the news media.

[Begin De la Calle recording] I do not believe it is fair that confessed criminals have free access to the media. I believe this is inappropriate for Colombia. [end recording]

[Arangule] This corresponds to a request made earlier by the president, who asked for a peace process without tape recorders, note pads, and television cameras. The contradiction is that Jose Noe Rios, the presidential delegate overseeing Lizarazo's release, today brought cameras and journalists to witness Lizarazo's release by the guerrillas.

ELN Leader Reacts to Samper's Peace Proposal

PA2111012394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 94

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Guerrilla Francisco Galan, ELN [Army of National Liberation] leader, who has been appointed by Father Manuel Perez as a negotiator in a possible peace process, has just sent a letter to NTC News. In the letter, Galan establishes his position regarding the government's peace proposal. There are many points on which Galan agrees with President Samper and others on which he disagrees. Said Galan:

We take a positive view of the government's statement regarding the peace process. Second, says the guerrilla: A true peace process can only be possible with the entire Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGSB].

Elsewhere in the letter, Galan says: We must establish the necessary contact with the various sectors and interlocutors who are interested in a peace process. It is urgent that we talk with the Armed Forces, economic associations, congress, labor organizations, nongovernment organizations, the church and, all in all, the nation's active sectors.

Fifth, he says: This is a timely moment to initiate regional dialogues.

Galan clearly differs with President Samper regarding regional dialogues. The government says it does not want regional dialogues, and the CGSB, through Francisco Galan, says this is a timely moment to hold them.

Regarding his own situation and that of [Popular Liberation Army leader] Francisco Caraballo, Galan says: We appeal to the government to begin working with us to define specific work mechanisms for the CGSB negotiators, in accordance with each negotiator's particular circumstances.

Paramilitary Groups Want To Participate in Talks

PA1811194294 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Nov 94 p 7A

[FBIS Translated Text] The so-called paramilitary groups from the areas of Cordoba and Uraba warned the government that "they cannot be left out of the negotiations offered to the guerrillas."

In two communiques sent to this newspaper, the groups claim their "all-out political" nature and demand a tripartite negotiation between the government, the subversive forces, and the paramilitary groups.

"(...) Just as the Left has publicly recognized that we are an active part of the armed conflict in the country, the government must also take into account that we are a fundamental part of any agreement to solve the problem of political violence in Colombia (...)," one of their letters stated.

Meanwhile, the other communique explained the circumstances surrounding the guerrilla attack in the region of San Pedro de Uraba, Antioquia Department on Saturday night.

The letter states that "the peasant self-defense groups in Cordoba and Uraba had much to do with the defense and support for the police in the area," because the Army's reinforcements arrived at 0730 the following day.

"The (government's) decision to order the Armed Forces to fight the self-defense groups is a somewhat complex situation because we both consider ourselves circumstantial allies and friends because we share the same enemy, which is more powerful than both of us," the letter states.

Meanwhile, Government Minister Horacio Serpa answered the communiques he simultaneously received in his office. He said the government is not considering the possibility of conducting joint negotiations with subversive and paramilitary organizations. He said the option for this last group is to surrender itself to the justice system.

"The government has made it clear that it is not possible to conduct a negotiation with the joint participation of guerrillas and paramilitary groups, but it hopes to find a solution to the problem of these armed groups, which some call private justice groups," Serpa said.

He added: "Just as the government is fighting crime in all of its forms, including drug trafficking, and just as the public forces are fighting subversive activities, the government also believes that paramilitary groups are a criminal expression, which the government has the duty to fight."

Peace Commissioner on Possible Talks With Guerrillas

PA1911165794

[FBIS Editorial Report] Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 17 November, during its regularly scheduled "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast, broadcasts a 27 minute interview with High Commissioner for Peace Carlos Holmes Trujillo by Dario Arizmendi and an unidentified reporter. Holmes has submitted a report to President Ernesto Samper on matters dealing with public order and the attitude of rebel groups regarding the situation in the country during the first 100 days of the Samper administration. Arizmendi asks Holmes to explain the difference "between the exploratory phase conducted in the first three months, and the preparatory phase the president has accepted based on your recommendations." Holmes notes that the goal of the preparatory phase is "to gauge the sentiments of various segments of civilian society," as well to find the "elements of a peace commitment" among the guerrilla groups.

Despite the skepticism of many sectors, Holmes asserts there is "a great commitment" to the negotiation process with guerrilla groups "so long as future negotiations are credible. As for the guerrilla groups, I have said there are encouraging signs of a commitment to explore new paths

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of understanding. That is why I recommended starting the preparatory phase. What are the objectives of this preparatory phase? First, to build directly, jointly, and confidentially the grounds for future negotiations; namely, key objectives, venue, handling of information, future agendas, and other aspects that may be necessary to reach a peace accord."

When Arizmendi asks if confidential means the public will not be informed of developments in the preparations leading to negotiations, the peace commissioner replies: "The public will be informed of how things evolve. Confidentiality is not synonymous with secrecy. We do believe, however, that because this is such a complex and delicate problem, it could generate many conflicting sentiments among the public if they receive contradictory signals. It is therefore best to act with restraint, prudence, and confidentiality."

To Arizmendi's question on whether segments or spokesmen for civilian society will be able to participate in the preparatory phase and in future negotiations, Holmes says "civilian society is incorporated into this process. Civilian society was called upon from the very beginning to help foster the appropriate climate. We called on civilian society yesterday to help fulfill the role of facilitator at the national and regional levels."

Arizmendi asks Holmes how long the government believes the preparatory phase will last. "There is no set time limit," the peace commissioner replies, "but the president yesterday tasked me with submitting a second report within a reasonable period." When asked if that means 90 days, Holmes feels it is inappropriate to set a time limit for the preparatory phase but says "it would not be for an infinite period, either" and depends on "how things evolve."

On the matter of the media's self-imposed restrictions on their coverage of the talks, an unidentified reporter cites remarks by Congress President Juan Guillermo Angel, who said the talks must be "crystal clear," although Angel is concerned that media coverage "may hamper them." Holmes explains that information "must be handled properly so the public, which is unaware of the day-to-day details of the negotiations, does not receive contradictory signals or harbor false hopes." Arizmendi wants to know why President Samper is proposing that the talks, if they are held, take place abroad and not in Colombia. Holmes admits that Samper would prefer that the talks be held outside the country "with the idea that being removed from daily and predictable events may contribute to working in a restrained and constructive environment. He also said that if the aspect of confidentiality can be ensured, something of such great importance to the process, we cannot rule out holding the talks in the country."

Arizmendi asks if the government expects a relatively peaceful Christmas in view of the recent lull in "subversive activities." The peace commissioner acknowledges that offensive operations have dropped in this last quarter, "although we must admit there was a flare-up in the days prior to the unveiling of the report." When asked to comment on the stance of the Colombian Armed Forces with regard to the Samper policies, Holmes notes that he met "the night before" with senior officers "to study, explain, and discuss" the proposals announced on the 17th, and the Armed Forces "fully support" these policies.

"Does the government look kindly upon tripartite talks?," Arizmendi asks. "The tripartite talk formula is contained in the government proposal, since it has summoned civilian society to foster a climate for and facilitate the process of negotiations. It summoned civilian society at the regional level to carry out similar tasks in different areas of Colombia," Holmes answers, adding that the government has asked civilian society to establish teams that "would study, as a contribution to the national development plan, the guerrilla group's proposals for political and social changes. "

Jaime Bateman Cayon Group Delivers Letter on Dialogue

PA1811183994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the letter Alfonso Lizarazo delivered to the government from the Jaime Bateman Cayon Group, the guerrillas have assured that they first want justice before turning over weapons, that they want regional dialogues, and that Lizarazo will use his artistic capabilities to promote the intentions of that guerrilla group. The letter was delivered tonight at the presidential palace.

Jokes, laughter, and merriment came back today for the cast of "Happy Saturdays" [Sabados Felices]. Their director, Alfonso Lizarado, had been released:

[Begin cast member Alvaro Lemon recording] I do not hold a grudge against anyone. They had their reasons, I know nothing about that matter. I only have a grudge against my wife, who took everything from me when we separated. [laughs] [end recording]

Meanwhile, the comedian and President Ernesto Samper met in Popayan with a warm embrace and boarded a plane back to Santa Fe de Bogota, where their fellow workers and reporters from Emisoras Caracol waited for them at the Presidential Palace:

[Begin recording] [Samper] We hope that the intensity of the war will lessen and that an agreement will be reached on the government's willingness, as stated today, to humanize the war; that is, that we remove the civilian population from this war.

[Lizarado] [Words indistinct] I hope it is understood that when one finds oneself in such a situation, solidarity is the most important thing. [end recording]

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The "24 Hours Newscast" has also learned at the Presidential Palace of the contents of the letter sent by the Jaime Bateman Cayon Group to the nation. They have proposed in the letter to resume regional dialogue under what they call a trilateral form, which comprises the private sector, the people, and the government.

They justify Lizarazo's kidnapping as follows: Convinced that public opinion should be informed, we are releasing Mr. Lizarado today the same way we took him, so that it will be he, through his artistic capabilities, who will prompt a teaching of consensus. Signed: Alonso Romel Ernest.

Coca Growers Protest Spraying of Crops

PA2011181394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Nov 94

[From the "TV Today" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Peasants from 200 municipalities throughout the country on 19 November staged huge demonstrations to protest glyphosate sprayings on coca plantations. The "TV Today" newscast was the first to report on such coca sprayings 15 days ago. On 19 November we visited Miraflores Municipality in El Guaviare and Puerto Asis Municipality in Putumayo, where the demonstrations were the most intense.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified reporter] On 19 November, more than 17,000 peasants who grow coca for a living peacefully occupied the Mayoralty of Miraflores, Guaviare, a municipality whose residents are all believed to earn their living from the cultivation of coca. Does everyone here earn their living through coca?

[Unidentified resident] You could say that 90 percent of the people here earn their living growing coca. I came here years ago, as did many other Colombians.

[First Reporter] Residents blocked the landing strip, which is also the town's main road, to protest the glyphosate sprayings on coca plantations. On the evening of 19 November, we received reports from Wilson Jair Miranda and Carlos Chamorro, our special envoys:

[Miranda] Good evening. Miraflores residents said that glyphosate sprayings could have dangerous consequences. Crops other than coca were affected, and the water pipes and rivers were contaminated.

[Chamorro] This has caused many problems among children and has destroyed plantations of rubber, corn, and plantain. Animals are suffering from a number of disorders.

[Miranda] Miraflores, which is about one and one-half hours from Villavicencio, was incommunicado on 19 November.

[Chamorro] Stores are closed and planes are grounded, thus, the town has no air link to the rest of the country.

[Miranda] Troops are confined to their quarters and are on maximum alert at the military base and at the Police post. The protest is continuing peacefully. We, the "TV Today" reporters, remain at the scene but are unable to leave. More than 17,000 peasants live in the urban center. [end recording]

[Announcer] On the evening of 19 November, the national government decided to temporarily suspend glyphosate sprayings on coca plantations. National Counternarcotics Director Colonel Leonardo Gallego made this announcement:

[Begin recording] [Gallego] The government is establishing a commission of national authorities who will visit those areas to meet with local authorities to discuss the situation and smooth things over.

[Second unidentified reporter] When will you visit the area, Colonel?

[Gallego] I am ready to go. I am waiting for the respective instructions and the appointment of the other officials who will make up the commission.

[Second reporter] Colonel, how many municipalities and departments are affected?

[Gallego] More than 200 municipalities in various departments are currently growing illegal crops. [end recording]

Spraying Suspended; DEA, Police Discrepancies Cited

PA2111040894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 94

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Glyphosate spraying in Guaviare Department has been suspended. According to the narcotics police, the order came following protests by residents of the area.

Nevertheless, "NTC News" has learned that new discrepancies have emerged between the police and the DEA, which are the real reason behind the suspension.

The National Police Directorate ordered the suspension of glyphosate spraying in the Department of Guaviare. Although the narcotics police reported that the temporary suspension is due to the protest of peasants from Miraflores, other sources said differences with the U.S. Government, the main sponsor of the operation, have emerged over the extension of the areas to be sprayed. According to the DEA, 40,000 hectares should be sprayed, while police are only conducting fumigations in 25,000 hectares.

In any case, the government will hear the demands of peasants from Miraflores, who are protesting because, according to them, the glyphosate is damaging other crops.

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[Begin Colonel Leonardo Gallego, narcotics police director, recording] For the time being, the spraying activities have been suspended until we receive further instructions. [end recording]

The narcotics police want to take advantage of the joint plans agreed upon by the defense ministers of Colombia and Venezuela to step up operations against drug traffickers operating in both countries.

[Begin Col. Gallego recording] We have been successful in controlling groups of drug traffickers and illegal substances in the area. [end recording]

The narcotics police director explained that an important route for shipping drugs to the United States through Venezuela is being established near Cucuta.

Paraguay

Three Generals Arrested for Questioning President's Legitimacy

PY1911015694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2333 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asuncion, 18 Nov (EFE)—Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy said that the three generals arrested today on his orders had violated military discipline in casting doubts on his legitimacy as head of state and Armed Forces commander in chief.

"They (the generals) must understand that authority, discipline, and hierarchy are not lost simply because we have a civilian administration," Wasmosy told reporters.

The arrested generals are former Defense Minister Eumelio Bernal; Pedro Concepcion Ocampos, former commander of the joint chiefs of staff; and former 3d Army Corps Commander Evelio Benitez Santacruz. Bernal has already retired, while Ocampos and Benitez are still waiting for Congress to approve their retirements.

On 17 November the three generals said that Wasmosy had won the presidency after obtaining the nomination of the ruling National Republican Association (ANR, Colorado Party) through internal elections with doctored results.

The generals also said that current Army Commander General Lino Cesar Oviedo helped Wasmosy in that task. In an interview with "Radio Nanduti" of Asuncion, Ocampos and Benitez characterized Oviedo as "schizophrenic" and "paranoid."

Wasmosy emphasized that Oviedo "was not even informed" of the arrests, adding that he had only talked about the matter with Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, military forces commander, and with Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia.

Oviedo has had a meteoric career since Alfredo Stroessner fell from power in 1989. In the past few years he has passed from 11th to third place in the military ranks, and he is currently considered the most influential military officer.

Wasmosy also said that one's condition as a retired officer does not give one the right "to attack military discipline or authority" because "an officer is like a priest; he can leave his cassock behind, but he cannot stop being a priest."

The presidential decision orders a 10-day arrest period for Bernal and 30 days for Ocampos and Benitez. The disciplinary action must be served at the Presidential Guard, where the three generals have already been detained.

Armed Forces Release Communique

PY1911020194 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Military Forces Command released an official communique explaining the reasons for the arrest of the three generals [Retired Division General Eumelio Bernal, Division General Pedro Conception Ocampos, and Division General Evelio Favio Benitez].

According to the communique, the arrests were prompted by violations of dispositions of Special Order 51 of May 1991, establishing that Armed Forces members cannot talk to the press without the authorization of the commander in chief. The document also mentions Special Order 35 of 4 May 1992 establishing the same prohibition.

Regarding Division General Eumelio Bernal, the only retired officer among the three generals, the official communique says that the disciplinary action is in accordance with regulations on retired military officers. The document mentions Article 847 of the Military Personnel Regulations, which states that retired officers remain under the jurisdiction of the military and disciplinary code after retirement.

The press communique, signed by Colonel Carlos Alberto Ovando, states that Military Penal Code Article 301 establishes disciplinary penalties for officers who violate the military ethics code.

The document finally states that the same articles, with the exception of Article 86, are in effect in the cases of Division Generals Pedro Concepcion Ocampos and Evelio Favio Benitez, because these officers are still on active duty.

New Armed Forces Promotions, Retirements Announced

PY1911002994

[FBIS Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 12 November publishes on pages 3 and 4 an unattributed 1600-word article on Armed Forces promotions.

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The article says that President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, in his role as Armed Forces commander in chief, has signed General Order 200 ordering promotions and retirements in accordance with the Promotions Board report.

In the 1st Army Corps, Colonel DEM, from the General Staff School, Antonio Dejesus Martinez Lezcano was named interim chief of general staff, replacing Brigade General Mario Barreto, who retired; Colonel DEM Teofilo Alberto Giubi Ferrari was named artillery commander; Lieutenant Colonel Elvio Varela Gauto was named 1st Army Corps headquarters troop commander; Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Ricardo Esquivel Caballero was named communications commander; and Lieutenant Colonel Celso Damian Canatta Alvarez was appointed engineering commander.

In the 1st Cavalry Division, Colonel DEM Juan Pablo Sisa Diaz was named chief of general staff; Colonel DEM Juan Francisco Vargas Lopez was named headquarters troop commander; and Colonel DEM Nicomedes Osorio Perez was named "Colonel Valois Rivarola" 1st Cavalry Regiment commander.

In the 2d Cavalry Division, Colonel DEM Anibal Daniel Cardenas Oviedo was named chief of general staff; Colonel DEM Gustavo Adolfo Pineiro Saguier "Aca Vera" was named 5th Cavalry Regiment commander; and Lieutenant Colonel Felix Dario Collante Gonzalez was named headquarters troop commander.

In the 3rd Cavalry Division, Colonel DEM Jorge Caballero Silvero was named chief of general staff; Colonel DEM Abel Omar Guerin Velazco was named "General Pedro Duarte" 8th Cavalry Regiment commander; and Colonel DEM Hugo Melgarejo Paredes was named headquarters troop commander.

In the 2d Army Corps, Colonel DEM Valentin Concepcion Romero Benitez was named headquarters troop commander and Colonel DEM Ramon Aristides Velazquez Adorno was named artillery commander.

In the 1st Infantry Division, Colonel DEM Birilo Quinonez Rolon was named chief of general staff; Colonel DEM Luis Maria Sapriza Nunes was named "2 de Mayo" 1st Infantry Regiment commander; and Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Wilfrido Bareiro Jara was named headquarters troop commander.

In the 2d Infantry Division, Colonel DEM Jose Key Kanazawa Gamarra was named chief of general staff; Colonel DEM Rafael Silguero Navarro was named "Curupayty" 4th Infantry Regiment commander; and Lieutenant Colonel DEM Gerardo Mercedes Miranda Cabello was named headquarters troop commander.

In the 3d Infantry Division, Lieutenant Colonel DEM Angel Maria Adorno Sanchez was named headquarters troop commander.

The commander in chief also named Colonel DEM Eulogio Rodriguez Acevedo interim commander of the Army Communications Command, replacing Brigade General Jorge Mendoza Gaethe, who was named commander of the Military Training Institutes Command; and appointed Colonel DEM Cesar Molinas Mendoza chief of the general staff of the Army Engineering Command.

New Vice Defense Minister Installed

PY1811144194 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 18 Nov 94 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] During a ceremony held yesterday at the defense minister's office, Brigade General Francisco Abelardo Vera Alarcon was installed as vice defense minister.

The defense minister installed General Vera Alarcon, extolling him and mentioning the high-ranking posts in which he served before his appointment as vice defense minister. Estigarribia also said our country is experiencing changes, which are normal within the military echelon.

Vera Alarcon pledged to pursue the policy implemented by his predecessor, General Cesar Cramer, the current acting Air Force commander, who was also present at the ceremony.

Peru

International Organization To Support Return of Exiles

PY1711180694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0414 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 16 Nov (EFE)—It was reported today in Lima that the Geneva-based International Organization for Migrations (OIM) will carry out a program for the organized return of people who were forced to leave their home towns in Peru because of terrorist violence. The first phase of the program will involve about 3,000 families.

OIM representative Augusto Mariategui said pilot program, which will probably cost $3.5 million, will be financed by the OIM, other foreign contributions, and the Peruvian Government.

In remarks released by the state news agency ANDINA, Mariategui said the project will be conducted in three stages: First, locating the exiles, identifying them, and diagnosing their health, nutrition, and psychological situation.

The second stage covers their transfer to their places of origin, which implies the payment for transport.

The third stage covers their arrival, when they must be provided with economic support for a period from six months to one year.

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An estimated 1 million people left their home towns in Peru, harassed by the political violence unleashed in May 1980 when the Shining Path began the armed struggle in the Andean Department of Ayacucho. Later, other regions of the country became affected by violence, and people began to move to other places within the department and toward other jurisdictions, among them the Peruvian capital.

Programs have been implemented over the past few months for the return of those people to zones from where terrorism has practically been eradicated. These programs have been consolidated with the support of state organizations.

Growth in Economy, Absence of Job Growth Examined

95SM0041A Lima QUEHACER in Spanish Jul-Aug 94 pp 30-35

[Article by Julio Gamero and Lourdes Valverde: "Four Years of Neoliberalism in Peru"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After five years (1988-1992) of systematic declines in production levels in this country, the GDP will post a significant gain for the second year in a row. More than economic growth, this reflects a partial recovery of the production indices that were recorded in the middle of the last decade.

If we analyze the nature of the present economic recovery, we find that it is resting upon elements that are quite different from those that should propel growth in a model that is supposedly oriented toward exports.

Thus, last year's recovery of production was due more to improved weather and more spending on highway construction, with loans from multilateral banks, than to any vigor in our export sector. The persistence of these elements, plus an increase in private investment and a boost in public spending thanks to the sharp improvement in tax collections, has caused growth to radiate—led initially by the primary sector—to those economic sectors that have been able to stay afloat in today's open and deregulated market in Peru.

Sustainability of Present Growth

An open economy like ours cannot sustain the current reactivation of production indefinitely. The growing balance of trade deficits that this entails (more imports than exports) are being financed temporarily with foreign exchange derived from the repatriation of capital, speculative capital, drug trafficking, and the privatization of public enterprises. Both the first and the last of the aforementioned nonconventional sources are one-time-only occurrences. On the other hand, speculative capital is very sensitive to changes in interest rates, and today it is flowing out of the country. In this context, the only nonconventional source of foreign exchange that will remain over time is drug trafficking.

In other words, the sustainability of the current reactivation process is closely tied to the need for a sector that can generate tradable goods [bienes transables], which, in turn, can turn into growth and literally "pull" the economy as a whole. Just as in the past industrialization based on import substitution set the pace for the entire economy, the viability of the current model depends on shifting that central role to the export sector.

The current relative price structure, however, does not reflect the top priority that the tradable goods sector should havea. Thus, whereas the real exchange rate has fluctuated to about 70 percent of the average rate of 1991, public sector prices are about 40 percent above the figure for that base year, and the interest rate (in sols) is twice the level recorded in 1990. Moreover, average wages in the private sector have remained virtually stagnant.

This relative price structure simply makes the financial sector the most profitable area. There is no doubt that the liquidation of the development banks and the mutual fund system has reinforced the monopoly prevailing in that sector, which is reflected in the high interest rate charged by banks for their loans, and therefore in the financial margin. In turn, the high real rate of public sector prices (much higher in dollars) merely reflects the need for the central government to boost collections and, as well, to make the privatization of state-owned businesses more attractive.

The bottom line is that this structure simply puts a premium on financial capital at the expense of productive capital. The export-oriented sector does not have the necessary incentive, and import substitution industries cannot develop in a fully competitive environment. In fact, given the appreciation of the new sol, sectors that were competitive are no longer so. On the one hand, they are experiencing strong cost pressures (high financial and public service costs), while on the other hand, they are receiving less income because of the undervaluation of the real exchange rate. This shrinkage of profit margins in the productive sector is passed on to the labor market in the form of lower wages and more labor intensivity.

Growth Without Employment

The problem of the relative price structure is having an impact on the labor market. Productive capital seeks to preserve profit margins at the expense of the labor factor. If the economic recovery continues with the current growth rates in the 10-percent range, the per capita GDP will be able to exceed 1990 levels. This improvement in production statistics will not, however, be an indication of any improvement in the standard of living for the majority of the country's population.

Although lower levels of industrial production were accompanied by lower employment figures in the latter part of 1992, the subsequent recovery of manufacturing production indices not only did not lead to the absorption of the jobs lost during the recession, but in fact prompted an even greater hemorrhage of jobs at first.

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At present, this trend has not been reversed, it has simply subsided.

The changes made in the organization of industrial labor have led to an intensification in the use of manpower. This explains why the boost in production has not translated into more jobs. On the contrary, less manpower is now required to produce the same amount. Workers' growing fear of lay-offs may have induced them to accept the increase in production based solely on an increase in their own effort.

This growth without jobs has caused a very significant rise in industrial productivity. In 1993, productivity grew by an average of just over 16 percent. This year, it has continued to climb, but there has been no visible improvement in real wages. This disparity between the productivity index and the cost of labor merely boosts industries' profit margins. While profits are eroded by the cost of financial capital and public prices, that erosion is offset on the labor side, as has become all too apparent.

Labor Market

The populace views the lack of jobs as one of the country's most serious problems (if not the most serious one). The unemployment rate in 1993 was 9.8 percent, the highest in history. This does not take into account hidden unemployment, which occurs when people see that it is impossible to find work and give up the search.

This does not mean that there has been no (self-)generation of jobs. In 1993, job creation was stronger in the so-called formal sector of the economy, but given the current distortion of the relative price structure, which tends to favor financial and speculative capital and penalize the productive sector, job creation has occurred to a greater extent in the nonpersonal services sector and in activities associated with the vigor of the capital market, rather than in the productive sector.

This did not, however, produce any improvement in workers' income. In 1993, not only did underemployment (measured by income) increase, but so did the percentage of workers receiving very low wages. Thus, the number of adequately employed workers dropped from 16.2 percent in 1992 to just 14.1 percent in 1993, while the number of workers with very low incomes (severe underemployment) grew from 37.1 to 41.8 percent.

In this manner, the current model tends to undervalue human resources, in terms of both income and skills. Present wage levels discourage the most skilled workers from remaining in the country. All this in a world where it is increasingly accepted that cheap manpower has ceased to be a reasonable advantage in and of itself. To achieve sustainable economic development, a country needs competitive jobs and adequate wage levels.

Rise in Poverty

The current economic growth rate not only amounts to growth without jobs, but it also signifies a persistent rise in poverty.

Preliminary estimates by Cuanto S.A. suggest that the severe poverty index rose from 180.6 in 1992 to 184.7 in 1993.

The structural reforms that have been implemented have created a group of "new poor" made up primarily of workers displaced from the modern sector of the economy and laid-off public sector employees who had trouble properly reinserting themselves in the labor market. In general, this segment of the population saw its income drop below the cost of a basket of basic consumer goods, and thus was thrust into poverty. Although they may retain some of the features of their former life (houses, durable goods, etc.), the permanent reduction in their income means that they will begin to lack more basic necessities, thus further aggravating the problem of poverty in our country.

Greater Income Disparity

The current economic model has resulted in the most unequal distribution of income ever recorded in the country. Thus, the rise in national income in 1993 merely reflected an increase—in real terms—in business profits, and to a much smaller extent in the income of those who are generically known as self-employed workers. While the proportion of income represented by business profits climbed from 50.9 percent in 1992 to 54.4 percent in 1993, the share represented by salaries dropped from 15.5 to 13.9 percent.

The liberalization of markets in the context of an unequal distribution of income and, specifically, low wage levels for the majority of the population means that a vast segment of the population is excluded from the benefits of economic growth.

The viability of the economic model in the long run depends on whether the entire population can gain access to the benefits of growth.

Uruguay

Attacks Against Colorado Party Premises 11 Nov

PY1711143494 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 13 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] There were a series of attacks against Colorado Party premises the night of 11 November. The victims later said these attacks severely tarnish what should be a climate for democratic exchange.

The List 85 [of former President Luis Maria Sanguinetti] headquarters on Colonia and Barrios Amorim Streets received reports of a series of attacks against Colorado Party premises. List 85 councilman candidate Gustavo Faulord said the attack is one of a series against his party over the past few days.

There were a series of attacks in various parts of Montevideo the night of 11 November. Some were markedly

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violent and endangered those Colorado Party followers participating in partisan activities.

The Piedras Blancas Theater, which was used by List 85 followers for an important rally, was attacked by unidentified individuals who threw rocks and partly smashed the doors. An attempt forced entry was discovered at the center on Pereira and Chucarro Streets. One suspect was arrested here.

A bus owned by the political group was stoned near Sixtina and Aparicio Saravia Streets. One woman was injured in the incident. Similar attacks were reported in the center on Pagola and Cufre Streets.

To this long list must be added an arson attack against a List 94 [Colorado Party faction] political club. This incident was reported by List 148 (an independent faction within this association) Secretary General Saralegui. There, unidentified individuals beat the janitor and painted political slogans on the walls.

Saralegui expressed his concern over the repetition of this type of attacks against party premises, which in some cases risk injuring people.

List 85 candidate Gustavo Faulord stressed the intolerance shown by the incidents. He said: "Time should have taught us better lessons in tolerance."

Sanguinetti's Running Mate Vindicates Defense of Tupamaro

PY1711160394 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 14 Nov 94 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Hugo Batalla, senator for the Party of the Government by the People (PGP) [and Julio Maria Sanguinetti's running mate on the Batlleist Forum ticket], defended Raul Sendic, the late founder of the Tupamaro National Liberation Movement (MLN-T), in his capacity as counsel for the defense and deemed that this "does not constitute a blemish" on his reputation.

During a speech in the city of Fray Bentos the evening of 12 November, Batalla—accompanied by Sanguinetti—replied to the Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP), which contends that Batlle "is not reliable" because he was the defense attorney of citizens who committed political crimes.

Batalla argued: "I was then fulfilling my obligations as a man, as an attorney (...) At a time when many had scuttled under their beds, I was on the front line giving legal advice and counsel to those whose ideology and actions had nothing to do with me."

He said: "I do not think this action constitutes a blemish since it was done to defend democracy and freedom. Many may have struggled with me in this endeavor," but "none as hard as I did."

Batalla complained that "never have I been the target of so many accusations, insults, and aggression as now (...) I have been for many years the good guy, the nice fellow who did not bother anybody, the one who did not associate himself with the structures that were obviously struggling to come to power."

"At a given moment, we thought Uruguay should leave its rancor, bickering, and resentment aside and that we should move ahead, seeking to rescue this Batlleist Uruguay that we once had and lost as time went by, [no closing quotation-marks as published] he said alluding to the agreement between the Batlleist Forum and the PGP.

In what was seemingly a reply to List 15 Leader Jorge Batlle, Batalla recalled that "some days ago, we (he and Sanguinetti) submitted an income declaration (...) We believe it is indispensable for citizens to know the properties and income of men who have been involved in politics for 40 years and who have devoted their entire lives to the service of the community."

Venezuela

Cabinet Approves Revised Budget

PA1811191594 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Nov 94 p D-4

[Report by Wilfer Pulgarin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers yesterday approved a 2,786,469,000,000-bolivare increase in the previously approved 155 trillion bolivare budget for 1995.

According to the bill, the additional 155 billion will be financed thus: 80 billion from privatizations, 35 billion from the issuance of bonds (treasury notes), and 40.541 billion from increased customs revenues.

Initially it had been announced that the budget increase would be 145 trillion bolivares. Official spokesman Guillermo Alvarez Bajares was asked to explain, and he replied that the political blocs had been duly informed of the new estimates. He added that the possibility of an extension has been eliminated by the approval of the reformed budget.

Next Wednesday the government will attempt to dispel the doubts of those who think it will be difficult for the government to sell several of its firms. On that date, FIV [Venezuelan Investment Fund] President Carlos Bernardez will present to the Council of Ministers the privatization schedule, which has already been approved by the economic cabinet.

The OCI [Central Information Office] chief said the increase in the privatization allotment is based on the sale of new firms and the reappraisal of several negotiations.

He estimated that the way the 1995 budget bill had been discussed will set a precedent. "In the future, the administration and congress will have to cooperate to balance the public finances," he said.

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The Council of Ministers also approved the 1995 umbrella bill, an action demanded by the legislative blocs in their meetings with government representatives. This law authorizes internal debts of 247.408 billion bolivares and $2.9 billion in external debts.

The budget and the umbrella bills were sent to Congress yesterday for its consideration.

Deputies Approve Bill on Servicing Foreign Debt

PA1811200494 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies approved during the first debate the Special Bill on Servicing the Foreign Debt submitted by the executive branch. The bill, which requests a 160 billion bolivare allotment to service the debt, confronted the dissenting vote of Radical Cause deputies.

As it is recalled, the discussion of the Special Bill began on 16 November, but the vote was deferred to 17 November following a heated debate. The Radical Cause legislators did not enter the Congress building in this Thursday's session to prevent the quorum from forming, but this strategy did not work. [passage omitted]

Conindustria: Foreign Exchange Delays Continue

95SM0024A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 28 Sep 94 Section 2 p 1

[Article by Alberto de la Cruz]

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 80 percent of the foreign exchange the industrial sector has requested has not been received, according to the results of a survey drafted by the Venezuelan Council of Industry (Conindustria).

Conindustria President Jorge Redmond said that the survey was carried out to establish how many enterprises had requested foreign exchange, the amounts involved, and which had received funds.

"We have had a timid response to date, and more than 80 percent of the foreign exchange has not been received," Redmond said.

His statements were made during the monthly meeting of the Conindustria board of directors, at which Alfredo Gruber, the president of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana, was present. He gave an explanation of the process of privatizing the basic state enterprises.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the food industry and dairy sectors, who were present to set forth the difficulties they are encountering in connection with price regulation and obtaining raw materials and industrial supplies.

Redmond said that the process of delaying the delivery of foreign exchange is continuing, even though some decisions designed to speed it up have been approved. "The dollars are still not reaching the industrial sector in the volume needed," he reiterated.

He said that the process "functions well" when the requests reach the Technical Office for Foreign Exchange Administration (OTAC). Problems occur, however, before the requests reach that body and after they have been approved.

Redmond emphasized that Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] recently appointed Eddo Polesel to serve as an intermediary between the private sector and the Foreign Exchange Administration Council (JAC), in order to ensure that specific cases are speedily dealt with.

However, he voiced his concern about the alleged discretionary judgments that are beginning to be seen in the consideration of requests.

He reported that one industrialist told him of an application for foreign exchange for the import of a basic component for his computer system that was rejected. The reason given was that "this is not a priority."

In this connection, he said that this matter would be investigated, because there has been no definition as yet about these alleged priorities. In addition, he noted, the JAC has said that there will be no problems with anything connected to the industrial processes.

Government Spending, Deficit Analyzed

95SM0024C Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 3 Oct 94 p 15

[Article by Telmo Almada]

[FBIS Translated Text] The executive branch overspent the fiscal budget figure for this year by 34.49 percent, after requesting three additional credit allocations totaling 599.299 billion bolivares, financial sources announced yesterday.

The Budget Law approved by the Congress for this fiscal year established the budget total at 1,430,635,000,000 bolivares, but it is estimated that by the end of the year, the public sector will have spent 1,924,075,000,000 bolivares.

The surplus expenditure, in the amount of 493.440 billion bolivares, was covered by additional credits that were justified on the basis of income that had not been foreseen at the time the budget was drafted, as well as additional debt incurred through the issue of treasury bills.

According to our sources, the figures show that the government has not succeeded in controlling public expenditures, despite the "austerity" measures

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announced by the new economic authorities when they took office in February of this year.

Inability To Contain Expenditures

The reduction in the fiscal deficit, one of the main goals of President Caldera's government, together with the reestablishment of fiscal balance, has been sought to date on the basis of efforts to generate new income by means of the package of tax laws introduced by the treasury authorities and known as the Sosa Plan.

The rationalization of public expenditures, however, which has also been announced as one of the main strategies for combating the deficit, has not been achieved to date, financial sources have informed EL DIARIO DE CARACAS.

In March of this year, the executive branch ordered a budget reduction of 105 billion bolivares (7.4 percent of the expenditure approved in this year's Budget Law) as a "fiscal austerity" measure.

When it was approved, the budget reduction measure was designed "to justify the programs being carried out with financing from the multilateral banks, as well as to rationalize and reduce the expenditures of the public bodies."

Paradoxically, the government made use of this budget reduction a short time later, in April of this year, to justify part of an application for additional credit in the amount of 156 billion bolivares.

This means that far from reducing public expenditures by 105 billion bolivares, the government, in actual fact, increased the total by 51 billion bolivares.

The argument used by the economic authorities to explain this excess in the management of public expenditures was that the current budget had not taken into account "a series of unmet needs that the public bodies began to show in the early months of the year."

The majority of these unmet needs had to do with promises to public employees and the governmental departments' operational costs.

Later, in August of this year, the government asked for a second additional credit allocation in the amount of 182.403 billion bolivares, so that public expenditures exceeded the planned figure by 233 billion bolivares.

This second additional credit, used principally to cover public debt commitments and to comply with the government decrees that established transportation and food vouchers for government employees, could be justified on the basis of the additional income provided by a bullish oil market and the more efficient collection of national taxes, since the Sosa Plan was by that time functioning fully.

More Debt Incurred

In addition, the executive branch found itself needing to apply for a third additional credit allocation, the largest of all, in the amount of 260 billion bolivares, because of the imperative need to cover the foreign debt commitments falling due at the end of this year.

This third request, which increased the additional credit demands to a total of 599 billion bolivares, is especially critical from the point of view of rationalizing public expenditures, our sources commented, because it cannot be entirely justified on the basis of additional income, but instead requires the executive branch to incur further debt by issuing treasury bills in the amount of 160 billion bolivares.

Probably, our sources commented, honoring these bills, which represent one of the most costly ways of incurring debt, will have a negative effect on the overall volume of public debt the government will have to deal with next year.

Convergence Leader on Survey, Movement Toward Socialism

95SM0024B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 1 Oct 94 Section 1 p 12

[Interview with Miguel Lopez Ruiz, national coordinator for organization of National Convergence, by Exequiades Chirinos Q.—place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] National Convergence enjoys the highest level of voter acceptance in the country, with 22 percent, compared to 16 percent for COPEI [Social Christian Party], 14 percent for AD [Democratic Action], and 12 percent for Radical Cause. This information was contained in a statement made by Miguel Lopez Ruiz, the coordinator for organization of Convergence and the spokesman for the meeting of the National Command.

Meeting in one of the Central Park halls, the political leaders and regional coordinators examined the situation within the movement and the organization's agenda, and they discussed the results of the internal survey carried out to establish the level of acceptance of the various political organizations, Convergence in particular.

Lopez Ruiz explained that "we discussed two matters: an organizational review, to determine whether we have achieved our goals, and an analysis of the surveys recently made concerning the voters' perceptions of the political parties."

He said "We are celebrating an excellent outcome—the fact that the public at large sees Convergence as a political organization capable of channeling the expectations and the concerns of the people as a whole toward the best solutions."

In connection with the level of credibility and acceptance of Convergence, as compared with the other parties, he said that the approval levels were as follows: 22 percent for Convergence, 16 percent for COPEI, 14 percent for AD, and 12 percent for Radical Cause.

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He stated that these figures were taken from the opinion poll carried out among the voters in July of this year in the 10 major cities in the country, where 75 percent of all the voters live.

[Chirinos] What about the movement supporting Chavez?

[Lopez Ruiz] This was not included in the poll.

[Chirinos] What about the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism]?

[Lopez Ruiz] It was not included either.

Lopez Ruiz explained that "the image and influence of each of the political groups were analyzed on the basis of surveys carried out in depth, not by flash polls, and the general opinion expressed by those questioned indicates that they place great hope in Convergence and feel they can work with this movement toward the collective good."

"A comparison with the figures for last year shows that COPEI has dropped from 26.27 percent to 16 percent, while AD has been experiencing a difficult situation from the political point of view because of the recent events in connection with the trials of former Presidents Carlos Andres Perez and Jaime Lusinchi."

[Chirinos] What is Convergence's strategy? Is it to win over more Social Christians?

[Lopez Ruiz] It is to work and to communicate to the country our desire for solidarity with the people. It is to work hard and not to worry about winning people over. We are concerned about the hypothesis that at the end of this period, Convergence will disappear, because no one who works and is convinced that his efforts are gaining ground can be afraid of disappearing.

[Chirinos] When will the process of choosing the candidates for the next regional elections begin?

[Lopez Ruiz] It is too soon to discuss this, but we will basically be taking the views of the people into account in the selection process. Surveys of the public perceptions of various individuals will be carried out to guide us, rather than the reverse, as has been the tradition. There are some political projects that are "cooked up" to promote various candidacies.

[Chirinos] How is the alliance with the MAS going?

[Lopez Ruiz] We have acknowledged, and we believe, that the MAS is a friendly political group with which we can make collective and integrated efforts without losing our own distinctive profile.

[Chirinos] Will the change in the MAS affect the relationship with Convergence?

[Lopez Ruiz] No. A month ago, Enrique Ochoa Antich, the new secretary general, met with our National Command, and he spoke with a great deal of enthusiasm about the joint work of the two organizations and the possibility of a MAS-Convergence merger. Frankly, the general attitude of the new MAS officers is very positive, showing extreme willingness to cooperate with Convergence officials.

[Chirinos] How do you see the departure of Freddy Munoz from the MAS?

[Lopez Ruiz] This is something that may be experienced by any political leader at some moment in his life, and we believe that it represents a political decision that group made.

In connection with the actions of the administration of President Rafael Caldera, Lopez Ruiz explained that "our first conclusion is that the situation in the country is an extremely difficult one, as the chief of state has said. However, the nation has, nonetheless, demonstrated the will and the readiness to believe in the president and his efforts, and to believe that things will improve in the future." [passage omitted]

Current Situation of Coup Leaders Detailed

95SM0025A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 9 Oct 94 Section 1 p 14

[Article by Michael Salazar]

[FBIS Translated Text] "If I wanted to, I could leave things as they are right now and accept the consular position abroad which they are offering me." Former Lieutenant Colonel Jesus Urdaneta Hernandez, now retired and the third most senior officer of Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement (MBR-200), said this during one of his moments of greatest tension during his time in prison at San Carlos Barracks.

That was in the days following the election victory of President Rafael Caldera, a time when the then major from San Juan de los Morros only received visits from members of his family and from a few friends and when the officer, at times, seemed to be losing his composure due to impatience.

As he said in his own words, he was offered assignment to a consulate abroad in exchange for agreeing to retire from the Army. At the time the officer still had hopes of returning to the service. Even at a time when a Venezuelan flag and the symbols of the movement of those who had risen up against the government dominated the entrance to where he was in prison, Urdaneta Hernandez was not interested in being a politician.

Between the Politician and the Soldier

This was what he said whenever he could, despite expressing vehement support of the MBR-200 program. He was one of the last of the rebels to lay down their weapons on the afternoon of 4 February 1992. In the opinion of those who associated with him when he was a

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prisoner he left the impression that he saw himself as still serving in the midst of his "troops" and as a man of deep political convictions.

When President Caldera decided to release those who had been tried in connection with the military uprising of 4 February 1992, he only satisfied one of the "suggestions" of the prisoners, including that made by Urdaneta Hernandez: leaving San Carlos Barracks in uniform and signing requests for retirement at Fort Tiuna.

Wanted: Soldier With a Good Presence and a Car

According to statements made by the majority of the military officers who received presidential pardons, they "understood" that it was impossible to return to the armed forces, particularly when they intended to continue to be the villains of the MBR-200.

Long before then large numbers of officers imprisoned for participating in the failed coup d'etat had been restored to duty in the armed forces by the government of President Carlos Andres Perez itself.

Nevertheless, everything seems to indicate that the majority of them chose to return to civilian life. A large number of officers who had been promoted from second lieutenant to captain was going from door to door in search of a job.

Nearly seven months have passed since the release of the officers who rose up against President Carlos Andres Perez. Major Hugo Chavez Frias has said that many of them had "no resources," had no regular employment, and were left doing odd jobs to support themselves.

Mr. Consul

During the middle of September an airplane bound for Europe carried in it Maj. Jesus Urdaneta Hernandez, who was traveling there to take over his post as Venezuelan consul in Vigo, Spain.

Apparently, Foreign Minister Burelli Rivas hopes that this man from the State of Guarico, with his well deserved reputation for being a man of proper conduct, will handle the situation in that consulate, which until now had been one of the most sought after posts.

In political circles it is said that the nomination of Lt. Col. (Retired) Jesus Urdaneta brings into the government a member of the most radical wing of the original MBR-200. That group has come to the aid of Maj. Francisco Arias Cardenas, who has been considered a supporter of the Army as an institution and has also been called a "milkman" for the government for having accepted the position of president of PAMI [Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan], a program of assistance thought up by former President Perez and continued under President Caldera.

Delivering Milk Also Leads to Miraflores Palace

Arias Cardenas, who is more estranged every day from MBR-200, is following the difficult path of being with the government and the opposition at the same time. In the offices of PAMI the major, who was arrested on the morning that the 4-F movement staged its abortive coup d'etat [4 February 1992] by Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, then governor of the State of Zulia, enjoys the full confidence of President Caldera and until now has been a tough nut to crack for those who bribe government officials.

It is said that Arias belongs to the opposition at the same time, in view of his connections with Radical Cause, although these relationships appear to be a function of his possible interest in becoming governor of the state where, one year ago, his candidacy for the Senate led nowhere.

It is recalled that Francisco Arias Cardenas was the first officer from the MBR-200 movement to request retirement, when Radical Cause nominated him for the top of their Senate list. On that occasion political analysts considered it impossible to explain the refusal of Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon to process Cardenas' application for retirement.

Now, in view of a totally different situation, with Radical Cause apparently declining in popularity and with the image of its "aces" somewhat damaged due to the fact that it no longer has a position in the government, Arias Cardenas could be the card played by the general and Senator Alberto Muller Rojas—a fervent critic of the leadership of the coup d'etat—to confront him in pursuit of a nomination for president, with Andres Velasquez and Pablo Medina.

The Institutionalists of MBR-200 Entered Government

Meanwhile, Arias Cardenas has been placing other officers, who have been his followers since the time that they were in prison, in various positions in PAMI. Among them are Maj. Joel Acosta Chirinos and Capt. Luis Valderrama.

Since the failure of the attempted coup d'etat mounted by the 4-F movement Lt. Col. Acosta Chirinos has remained silent in the dispute between Arias Cardenas and Hugo Chavez.

That was the case until almost the end of 1993, when he signed an manifesto from San Carlos Barracks supporting the administration of then President Ramon Velasquez. From then on Acosta Chirinos went on to set up the so called "institutionalist" group among the officers held in prison.

When proceedings against them were halted, Maj. Acosta Chirinos, who is from the State of Falcon, was again ostracized, and this completed his separation from the MBR-200 movement. Later, he was employed by Minister Ciro Zaa to take charge of everything concerning security in the Ministry of Urban Development.

Acosta Chirinos held that position until Arias Cardenas asked him to accept appointment to an office in PAMI.

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It was a kind of old home week for the two majors, a matter where their friendship took first place.

Another well known opponent of Hugo Chavez since their time in Yare Prison is now the chief of data processing in the office where Arias Cardenas is the director. This is Capt. (Retired) Luis Valderrama. After undergoing a religious conversion in jail, Capt. Valderrama opposed Hugo Chavez. At present he still holds the same views.

When Luis Valderrama recalls the whole process which he has lived through since the military uprising, one notes in him a certain amount of disillusionment with Chavez Frias. It is not known whether he will agree to support Francisco Arias Cardenas in his possible political aspirations. At present he is highly trusted by the president of PAMI, even though he has plans for working in private industry.

Capt. (Retired) Gerardo Marquez also belongs to the Arias faction. He works for INMERCA [expansion not given] under the direct supervision of Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz.

Marquez was one of the first people recruited by the 4-F Movement and was released from Yare Prison after requesting retirement. At INMERCA he has done an outstanding job in his work against the gangs which used to control the large market at Coche.

Privatizing Wing

Maj. Jose Miguel Ortiz Contreras, at first one of the military officers who rose up against President Carlos Andres Perez but more closely identified with the supporters of MBR-200, was among the rebels to whom the government offered diplomatic positions abroad. Those offers were presented through General Fernando Ochoa Antich.

Ultimately, the government offer found no response from Ortiz Contreras who, nevertheless, ended up by leaving MBR-200 when he accepted the management of the privatized toll collection booth on the Caracas-Valencia superhighway.

In civilian life Lt. Col. (Retired) Ortiz Contreras seems to have performed acceptably as an administrator. Politically, he does not belong to any group, even though he tends to support Arias Cardenas.

Not All Were Called

The captains belonging to MBR-200 were part of the most radical element while they were in prison. Once released, Ismael Perez Sira and Carlos Duarte Marino, considered the most politically oriented, have moved together, but along different paths.

When Perez Sira, an engineer by profession and a highly creative man in the sciences, joined Hugo Chavez, Capt. (Retired) Carlos Duarte tried unsuccessfully to join Radical Cause.

The political future of both men is uncertain. Perez Sira is known as a critical person and at any time he may come out and express his differences with the leadership of the MBR-200 movement, to which he belongs.

Carlos Duarte Briceno is a different case. At Yare Prison he became an evangelical, religious person, while making plans to run for the position of deputy for Radical Cause. When he was released from prison, he resumed contact with MBR-200. Nevertheless, today he seems to be keeping his distance from any kind of proselytizing activity.

Little is known of the other participants in the 4-F uprising. Some are trying to find themselves by working, particularly the captains and lieutenants, who do not have the benefit of a retirement pension.

Possibility of 'Much More Violent' Unrest Noted

95SM0025B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 9 Oct 94 p 21

[FBIS Translated Text] Intelligence sources available to EL DIARIO DE CARACAS have prepared a report in which they refer to the possibility that disturbances similar to or worse than the events of February and March 1989 might happen again. These events are better known as "the events of 27-F" [the events of 27 February 1989] or the "big shakeup." A comparative analysis of the events of 27 February and the present situation in the country is the foundation on which this intelligence report is based.

Divided into four chapters, this report describes the background and the events which took place in 1989—three weeks after Carlos Andres Perez became president for the second time—as well as what happened in the first few days of March 1994. Subsequently, the analysis explains—within a sociological framework—what the violent actions of masses of the people consist of. It continues with a comparison of the Venezuela of five years ago and the country at present, emphasizing the political, military, and social aspects. The report ends by describing the consequences for the nation of the disturbances of 27 February 1989 and the possibility that events of this nature might be repeated.

An X-Ray of the Events of 27 February 1989

For a better understanding of the events which took place during February and March 1989, the report presents a detailed chronology.

2 February 1989

Beginning of the administration of President Carlos Andres Perez. According to the report, the country experienced relative stability in the political and social fields. The report stated: "The only discordant note seemed to be the agitation among students led by members of Plancha 80 [Program 80] at the UCV [Central University of Venezuela]... Following the return to

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classes in January 1989, people wearing hoods appeared in the nearby areas of Tres Gracias and Plaza Venezuela."

24 February 1989

The report states that violent disturbances took place, and the government announced an increase in the price of gasoline.

25 February 1989

The analysis states that a meeting was held of the National Coordinating Board of the Federation of University Centers at the Central University of Venezuela. Mention is made in the report of the increase in the price of gasoline at the special store for students. The report states: "During those 48 hours the students planned an additional day of violent disturbances, not a major shakeup."

27 February 1989

The report states that President Perez made a trip through the western part of Venezuela, and the Metropolitan Police (PM) were preparing for another clash with people wearing hoods. The analysis states: "In Caracas plan of the Federation of University Centers included starting disturbances at high schools. The planned agitation would not be limited to the area near the Central University of Venezuela. On the contrary, marches were scheduled from Eastern Venezuela...The university student leaders included high school boys in their units, and a few handguns were distributed to increase the violence of clashes with the police. In the interior of the country similar plans were to be carried out, although these plans were not so well developed."

The report continues that in Guarenas a protest movement was begun which was spontaneous in form but which was turned into a clash with the police. Then it was turned into disturbances involving the looting of stores and buildings which could not be controlled by the Guarenas police force. The police had to call for reinforcements from Caracas. In turn the Caracas police force had committed its regular personnel to dealing with the disturbances at the Central University of Venezuela. It was forced to send members of its reserve unit to Guarenas.

Nevertheless, given the size of the disturbances, it was also necessary to send members of Regional Command 5 of the National Guard to Guarenas. The remaining personnel of this command were sent to Los Teques, because disturbances had also begun in that city. The report states that Caracas was left in the hands of the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], which was unable to control the situation in the city, "where the first motorized parades had already appeared, massively and mysteriously. They moved toward different objectives and then disappeared." The report points out that, meanwhile, similar situations were developing in the interior of the country (in Valencia, Maracay, Merida, and Oriente).

In its description of the events the report states that late in the evening of 27 February 1989 two alternatives were being considered by the government:

- (1) Officers of Regional Command 5, in view of the recommendations of Minister of Defense Italo del Valle Alliegro, proposed the implementation of Plan Avila—that is, the occupation of Caracas by the FAN [National Armed Forces of Venezuela], a plan which would be implemented under the command of Gen Manuel Heinz Azpurua.
- (2) Drawing in military personnel from area in the interior of the country who were not committed to dealing with the disturbances.

According to the report, President Perez, after hearing the views of various persons whom he consulted, ordered the execution of Plan Avila, whose implementation depended on the suspension of constitutional guarantees. For this purpose a consensus reflecting the agreement of the political parties was needed, which was not available immediately.

28 February 1989

The chronology states: "Disturbances and the looting of private property were begun by the agitators... The student leaders, who had seen their most optimistic goals surpassed, asked for new, mass demonstrations and issued instructions to the interior of the country to continue the disturbances... Really, in view of the delay in implementing Plan Avila, the greatest damage took place on 28 February 1989."

28 February 1989 (1600) to 2 March 1989 (0400)

The report states: "It was necessary to neutralize snipers, thugs, looters, and students who wanted the disturbances to continue." The report went on to state that: "This was the repressive aspect" of government activity. The report declares that: "None of the guerrilla groups of the far left took part in the 'big shakeup,' and still less in the planning of events."

Finally, the intelligence report says that the "big shakeup" took all of the security organizations by surprise, as well as the groups of the far left, since no plan had been prepared to detect them in advance. Nevertheless, the report states that, "in view of the situation in the country as a whole, the existing student disturbances, and the impact of the increase in the price of fuel and its consequent reflection in an increase in transportation charges, a general estimate on a possible danger or threat could have been prepared."

Is a New "Shakeup" Possible?

This question raises another one: Why not? Following are the most important aspects of the comparative analysis contained in the report. According to the report,

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in 1989, "The membership of AD [Democratic Action Party] and COPEI [Social Christian Party], the two largest political parties, was still intact. The MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] looked like a third force. Radical Cause had appeared on the political scene. The URD [Democratic Republican Union], the MEP [People's Electoral Movement], the PCV [Communist Party of Venezuela], Vanguard, and other political groupings were quite small."

The report continues: "There were authorized spokespersons for each political group. Political leaders accepted the system." In 1994 the political leadership of the parties has been weakened, divided, and affected by disinformation and/or decay. It is difficult to find authorized spokespersons for the parties. Powerful forces have arisen which advocate, not so much the reform or renovation of the system but radical and substantial change in it."

Regarding the situation in Congress, the report points out that in 1989 this institution "was solidly established, even though it needed reform." By contrast in 1994 Congress is "threatened with disappearing and being replaced by a Constituent Assembly. Leaders of the left repeatedly propose the exclusion of AD and COPEI from any new parliamentary structure."

In analyzing the situation affecting the armed forces the intelligence report states that in 1989 they displayed 100-percent loyalty to the system and a generally coherent structure. By 1994 this situation had changed but, "Although one could not state anything specific in any categorical sense, there is no doubt that the disturbances of 1992 and subsequent developments have damaged the National Armed Forces. From its ranks came the MBR-200 [Bolivarian Revolutionary Group] (basically from the Army), and the M/5/J [expansion unknown] (basically from the ARV) [expansion unknown]. The Venezuelan Armed Forces were involved in both uprisings."

The report states that, "A second 'shakeup' could be much more violent, since there has been greater political, economic, and social deterioration. This deterioration could lead to the inclusion of extremists and even of elements within the National Armed Forces which advocate a class struggle within the military. This could turn into a civil war." In its description of the characteristics which might reflect the elements of a possible, second "shakeup" the report states: "The continuous and constant sowing of hatred and the search for scapegoats in business and financial circles could turn a new 'shakeup' into an eminently class oriented struggle, during which the poor would come out to hunt down the rich and would not necessarily rebel against the government but rather against those who have been designated as responsible for social injustice and corruption, the plunder of the Treasury—hoarders, members of the mafia, and thugs."

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